

## Hint of two more autumn rate cuts

# Tory team holds talks today on election timing

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ANATOLE KALETSKY

SENIOR Tory business managers will meet this morning to plot election strategy in the light of another poll at the weekend showing that the government has reversed Labour's summer lead in the ratings.

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, and four of the prime minister's most trusted cabinet colleagues will review the significance of the NOP poll, which showed that Labour's six-point lead has been transformed into a two-point Tory advantage.

The finding is broadly in line with last week's polls and suggests that a trend might be beginning which could tempt John Major to call a general election on November 7. That suggestion was reinforced by weekend reports that a fall in inflation to 4.5 per cent, which is expected to be announced on Friday, could signal two more cuts in interest rates before the end of next month's Tory conference.

Government sources are, however, keen to play down the prospects for an early election and they insisted that today's meeting, which will be attended by John Wakeham, the cabinet's publicity chief, Richard Ryder, the deputy whip, John MacGregor, the leader of the Commons, and

Lord Waddington, the leader of the Lords, was routine. The sources said that the group, which plots the government's political strategy, has been meeting throughout the summer.

However, it is likely to review the latest figures from Tory private polls. These are understood to show that in the 70 Conservative-held marginals critical to the outcome of an election, the government is doing slightly better than in the national polls.

The prospects for a November election will also be boosted by the findings of yesterday's NOP poll in *The Independent on Sunday* that there is a rise in economic optimism, among the electorate and much of Mr Major's strong personal following comes from soft Labour or Liberal Democrat supporters, who might be readily persuaded to give their vote to the Conservatives.

Treasury sources were also quick to dampen election speculation as they denied that a firm decision had been made to cut base rates again before the end of September. Officials said that the timing of interest rate changes was never decided in advance and depended on circumstances in the markets and the economy.

However, one policy maker admitted that the financial markets' reaction to further interest rate cuts would be a crucial factor in the government's electoral strategy. Ministers had been heartened by the City's bullish response to last week's cut in interest rates, but they remained concerned that international investors might turn against sterling if interest rates were cut again too soon.

Government strategists realise that all interest rate decisions will be interpreted politically until the date of the election is settled. Conservative Central Office believes that base rates should be reduced by at least a further point, to 9½ per cent, by polling day. However, if the Treasury cuts the interest rate after an election has been called, it could cause a pre-election run on sterling.

Interest rate moves during

the electoral campaign would also invite charges of political manipulation, so Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is likely to be urged by colleagues to get at least one more cut out of the way as quickly as possible, so that the market response can be assessed before a poll date is set. The week ahead could provide a good opportunity for a further cut because of the fall in inflation to be announced on Friday.

Later today Mr Patten will fuel the electioneering debate by joining Tom King, the defence secretary, at a Conservative Central Office press conference, called to attack what the government sees as Neil Kinnock's about-turn on nuclear disarmament. They will argue that his readiness to repudiate his unilateralist past shows he will abandon cherished beliefs to gain power.

Yesterday Neil Kinnock said that a Labour government would keep Britain's nuclear weapons as long as other countries possessed theirs. "We would retain nuclear weapons right through the process of negotiation," he said on TV-am's *Frost on Sunday* programme. "That's the only basis on which you can effectively negotiate." He also ruled out any large-scale rearmament programme.

Mr Kinnock accused Mr Major of bearing responsibility for the recession because of his conduct as chancellor. "This man has a record of form as long as your arm," he said.

While the Tories will hope to gain a boost from the inflation figure, Labour will intensify its efforts to move the debate back onto the domestic scene. Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, will today pre-empt an announcement due on Thursday of a big rise in unemployment by highlighting the surge in redundancies in Tory-held seats in the South.

Mr Major will tonight make a speech to businessmen in Scotland, where he is expected to argue that Britain is now moving out of the recession.

Diary, page 12

Students targeted, page 25

## Ashdown pours scorn on Labour 'panic'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats are on the verge of a breakthrough, thanks to Labour's failure to offer a radical alternative, to the Conservatives, Paddy Ashdown claimed in Bournemouth yesterday.

As the party met for its annual conference, the Liberal Democrat leader said that Labour was talking only of doing things better than the Tories. He added: "The Liberal Democrats are going to do things differently. Labour has left us a huge vacuum and this party intends to occupy it."

Claiming that Labour's earlier surge in opinion polls had been checked "and quite probably broken", Mr Ashdown

said there must be "panic stations" in the Labour party. "They cannot defeat the Conservatives. They have not mapped out a clear alternative and they have not got the power. If this government is going to be turned out then the Liberal Democrats will be one of the prime movers."

Des Wilson, the Liberal Democrat campaign director, said: "We believe Labour cannot win." It was noticeable that both yesterday spent the bulk of their time criticising Labour rather than the government. Pressed to spell out the Liberal Democrat terms

Continued on page 18, col 1

Ashdown pledge, page 6

## Alert raised on city smog

Motorists are threatened with tough new regulations to cut exhaust pollution, Kevin Eason reports

Motorists could be advised to leave their cars at home on the worst days of city pollution under new regulations being studied by the environment department.

Drivers may also be told under anti-pollution guidelines, which could be put into action as early as next year, to switch off engines at traffic lights to stop unnecessary fumes being put into the atmosphere.

Fumes from cars and lorries are blamed by environmentalists and



doctors for a large increase in breathing difficulties, particularly among children and asthma sufferers.

Concern over "dirty air" is now so great that ministry officials are considering issuing smog alerts next summer. The government study is the first sign that ministers are preparing to tackle car pollution, possibly with legislation.

Hot weather and scant breezes helped levels of sulphur dioxide soar in Britain's cities last week. Reports say levels in London were at 230 parts per billion on Friday, compared with a European guideline of 122.

Cars already on the road will escape European Community regulations on

Continued page 18, col 4

## Moscow pleads for help to tackle food shortages

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

WESTERN foreign ministers began to converge on Moscow yesterday as the new Soviet authorities grappled with measures to avert possible hunger this winter. Officials in Moscow formed an emergency committee to co-ordinate the city's food supplies as senior Soviet officials appealed for Western aid.

Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, flew yesterday to Moscow to discuss aid with President Gorbachev and President Yeltsin. Herr Genscher, with James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Douglas Hurd, is attending a conference on human rights in the capital tomorrow. Food aid is forcing its way on to the agenda, and so is civil liberties.

Boris Pankin, the new Soviet foreign minister, yesterday appealed for large-scale aid, arguing that the dramatic events in the Soviet Union affected the fate of the world to at least the same degree as the Gulf war. He told CNN, the US television station, that the West had raised \$100 billion (\$59.2 billion) when the Gulf emergency occurred, "and it is our hope that in this situation similar amounts of money will be mustered".

The Soviet Union needed close co-operation, technical assistance, short-term humanitarian aid, giant invest-

ments, loans and credits to bolster democracy and cope with recent tremors and shocks.

Vladimir Karnaukhov, who oversees Moscow's consumer sector, told Tass the disastrous situation in food provision dictated extraordinary measures. His emergency committee had been empowered to deal decisively with problems hampering supplies of food to the capital, and the city could run short of such staples as potatoes and sugar.

He cited the breakdown of traditional agreements between city and country areas and with other republics. Reports on this year's harvest vary, with some saying that the weather has reduced yields and others that productivity has held up well.

All agree, however, that the main problem is the refusal of farms and republics to sell their produce to the state. Only 25 million tonnes of the planned 80 million tonnes of grain had been sold to the state by September 1.

In Moscow, state shops continue to be poorly stocked, and although markets are full of seasonal goods and meat, there are few buyers because prices are so steep. So far, market traders ridicule suggestions that they might have to reduce their prices and operate rigid cartels.

## Ministers aim to cut home repossessions

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are drawing up a series of measures aimed at stemming the rise in home repossessions, in spite of resistance from the Treasury.

The proposals include a scheme for building societies to buy back properties from mortgage defaulters and allow the occupants to stay as tenants. Relaxation of social security rules to make it easier for people to stay in their homes after losing their jobs, are also being considered.

Sir George Young, the housing minister, confirmed yesterday that with repossessions running at five times the level of two years ago, official help was being considered. "We are concerned about the number of repossessions and the

trauma that involves, and the cost in bed-and-breakfast accommodation for some of the families," he said. "There is a dialogue with the Council of Mortgage Lenders and within Whitehall about how the government might reduce the trauma and the cost."

David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, is understood to be resisting demands for substantial measures. Under the scheme put to Sir George by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the government would make a £400 million cheap loan available to building societies to enable them to buy properties from defaulters.

Leading article, page 13

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On the march: supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party parading through the black township of Tokoza near Johannesburg yesterday after at least 18 supporters were killed in an ambush by gunmen on their way to a rally. Zulus trapped, page 9

## Yugoslav president defied

By ANNE McELVOY  
 IN ZAGREB AND  
 OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YUGOSLAVIA'S federal army fighting in Croatia showed no signs yesterday of heeding an order from President Slobodan Milosevic to return to barracks.

In a letter delivered to the army's headquarters in Belgrade yesterday, Dr Mesic asked the federal forces to cease their attacks throughout Croatia. "If they fail to respond, it will mean that the army is acting outside its jurisdiction and that signifies a military coup," he said.

Croatian radio reported yesterday that police and national guards fought Serb militias at a number of points across the republic. There was heavy fighting in the Pakrac area 60 miles south-west of Zagreb, according to the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug. Both sources claimed that Serb nationalists had ambushed a "large number" of Croat police and national guards.

Croatian radio also said an aerial attack had been launched against Sarvas, in the

Continued on page 18, col 1



Pankin: seeking same amount as for Gulf war

The provision of foreign assistance emerged as one of the few points of conflict between presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin during Friday's joint television interview. President Gorbachev has formed an inter-republic committee on food distribution to prevent "food becoming the object of sabotage or winding up in mafia structures". Mr Yeltsin said, however, that the old union agencies connected with food distribution did not inspire confidence.

Economic gurus, page 8

Osijek targeted, page 9  
 Leading article, page 13

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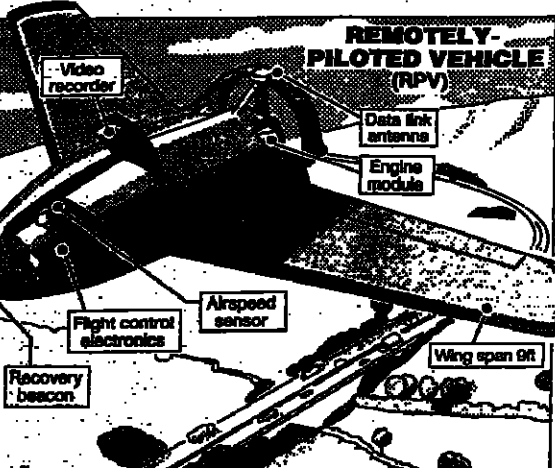
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## Police want Gulf war hero to spy for them

By LOUISE HIDALGO



Peacetime role: spy aircraft could monitor traffic congestion, football crowds and street violence

SPY-IN-THE-SKY technology could be used by the police in the fight against crime and traffic congestion.

Remote-controlled aircraft were one of the heroes of the Gulf war. The planes, carrying photographic and video equipment, flew more than 500 missions over enemy territory, returning with up-to-the-minute details of Iraqi positions and targets.

Before the war, the technology had proved its worth when similar pilotless devices were used to take photographs after the Chernobyl accident. The Israelis used remote-controlled aircraft in both the 1967 and 1973 wars.

Now they could be used to monitor street violence, football crowds and traffic, according to Avon and Somerset police. They have already carried out a feasibility study, and will be discussing the potential of the technology with a experts meeting in Bristol this week for a three-day seminar.

The aircraft, known as remotely-piloted vehicles (RPVs), carry small television and film cameras and infrared sensors. Aerial pictures can be transmitted almost instantaneously to headquarters up to 100 miles away. Flight paths can either be pre-set or controlled from a base

by computer to allow response to changing events.

A nine-day trial using a manned helicopter was described as a success by Avon police. But at £600 an hour to hire one helicopter, the force decided to look at other options. "We have looked very carefully at the pilotless version, and are well aware of the potential," a spokesman said. "But any final decision depends on the costs."

Peter Bunniss, a research fellow in aerospace engineering at Bristol University, said: "A really that a sophisticated one costs about £50,000 while a full-size helicopter costs around £1 million."

### TODAY IN THE TIMES

#### SEA URCHINS?

Lady Roselle Raynes thought children in care were "horrid young hoodlums" until she began to take them out on her yacht Page 10

#### FOWL PLAY

No wonder the bitters looks worried. Bad enough to belong to an endangered species, but now Bernard Levin is gunning for it Page 12

#### CATCHING UP

Nigel Mansell's victory over Ayrton Senna in the Italian Grand Prix keeps him just within reach of the world championship Page 34

#### GANG WARFARE

David Owen has written 15 pages per year of his life and is thus six pages ahead of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Peter Riddell observes the battle of the SDP memoirs Page 12

Arts...	11,16
Births, marriages, deaths	14,15
Business	19-24
Classified	15,24-27
Court & social	15,18
Crosswords	14
Education	25,27
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Life and Times	10
Obituaries	29-34
Sport...	17
TV & radio	17
Weather...	18





## Major travels north to win back party's unfaithful

THERE are not many votes to be had in Maggicknock and Fattahed, but it is in such agricultural hamlets and villages of northeast Scotland that the Conservatives see the greatest chance of increasing their vote in the forthcoming general election.

Today John Major continues his third visit to Scotland since becoming prime minister. Over the next two days, he will visit Aberdeen and its hinterland on a tour that the Scottish Conservatives hope will cement their support among an electorate they hitherto regarded as natural Tories.

Whether Mr Major, although a far more popular figure than Mrs Thatcher, will persuade erstwhile Conservatives back to the fold is open to doubt. In 1980, the Tories held five seats in the northeast. After the 1987 election they held only one, Kincardine and Deeside, whose incumbent MP, Alick Bu-

chanan-Smith, died the week before last.

Four years later, in spite of the revitalised oil industry on which Aberdeen has grown fat, the cards are still stacked against the Tories. Many observers believe that Mr Buchanan-Smith's seat could be lost to the Liberal Democrats because of the huge number of new settlers, many from England, who hold no candle to the traditional Tory values of the farming communities of Kincardine and Deeside. Some Tories hope that Janet Buchanan-Smith, the widow of the late MP, will be persuaded to stand — a measure of their nervousness.

Even the comparative wealth caused by the oil industry has been of little good to Tory fortunes. Alex Salmond, the Scottish National party leader who took Banff and Buchan from the Tories in 1987, this weekend picked on the decision by the energy department

John Major's present tour of Scotland is aimed at increasing the party's vote by bringing natural Tory supporters back into the Conservative fold, Kerry Gill writes

to block the transfer of civil service jobs from London to Aberdeen, saying it ended any prospect of up to 15,000 knock-on jobs being created in the oil industry.

"John Wakeham and his junior side-kick Colin Moylan have made it plain that they have a closed mind to the overwhelming arguments for transferring these key posts to Aberdeen," he said. "If John Major wants to avoid being politically drummed out of the north-east, he will have to do what his predecessor failed to do and listen to Scottish people."

The department's decision will also harm the Tories in Aberdeen South, taken by Labour's Frank Doran in 1987 from Gerry Ma-

lone, another seat the Conservatives have targeted. Aberdeen's leading businessmen, who are to hold talks with Mr Major, will doubtless tell him what a political mistake it was.

Mr Major is also to meet deep-sea fishermen. His followers will be hoping that he does not receive the kind of treatment meted out to Jose Almeida Serra, director-general of the EC's fisheries inspectorate, when he visited the port of Peterhead earlier this year and had a bucket of water tipped over his head.

The region's 6,000 fishermen are still raging over the EC regulation introduced in January that enforces a lay-up of eight consecutive

days each month to conserve stocks. Their demands for a de-commissioning scheme that would cut the size of the fleet and offer compensation to men wanting to leave the industry have all but been ignored.

Even the environment has become an electoral issue on Deeside, where the future of Mar Lodge, the magnificent 77,000-acre estate close to Balmoral, remains in doubt. Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, has recently been persuaded that it should be bought on behalf of the nation with the probability of Treasury money being put towards the £10 million purchase price. However, his former reluctance for the government to become involved in the purchase still rankles with the vociferous local conservation lobby.

Mr and Mrs Major stayed at Balmoral as guests of the Queen over the weekend. Yesterday, hav-

ing accompanied the Queen to church, the prime minister was certain of at least one vote in the general election.

As the royal entourage left the church an onlooker, Rosie Alexander, attempted to hand members of the royal family a basket of flowers. The party drove by, but Mr and Mrs Major, travelling in a Range Rover at the rear, drew up. Mrs Major took the flowers and she and her husband had a brief chat with Miss Alexander before they returned to Balmoral for lunch.

Miss Alexander said: "I had really been hoping to give the flowers to one of the royal family. I was very chuffed when the prime minister stopped. I have never voted before in my life but he will certainly be getting my vote from now on."

Mr Major, however, did not tell her when the election would take place.

## Bookies chalk up election chances

By ALAN HAMILTON

FORGET opinion polls, and listen to far sounder forecasts. Big bookmaking chains are now quoting 4-7 for a Conservative general election win, and Labour has gone out to 5-4, the first time they have been odds against since March.

Interest in the book has been stimulated in recent days by John Major's foreign adventures, a further cut in interest rates, and opinion polls giving the Tories a narrow lead. One leading chain, William Hill, has taken £30,000 in the last week, and on Saturday accepted a bet of £2,000 on Labour to win. Hill's said yesterday that punters do not always back their own side; they are as likely to back the party they fear may win, as a form of insurance.

For lovers of a rank outsider, the Liberal Democrats are offered at 100-1 against a win. Paddy Ashdown should not, however, despair; the Derby has been won at least three times by a horse with a similar starting price, and Norton's Coin took the Cheltenham Gold Cup at identical odds last year.

Even three-horse races can produce a photo-finish. Bookmakers are offering a mere 5-4 against a hung parliament.

Most interest at present is not on the outcome of race, but on the date. A November election is now even money, with next May second favourite at 5-2. March is offered at 5-1, June at 7-1, October 10-1, April 12-1, February 25-1, and July 100-1. If you really feel like tossing money to the winds, you can have December or January at 150-1.

As always, it will be the brave who win the fare to the Cayman Islands should Labour be returned. Investors last spring were being offered 33-1 against a November election.

A popular request is for a price on Margaret Thatcher being the next Tory leader. The big chains offer 50-1 against. "If the Tories lose the next election, she could come down to 20-1 or even less," a William Hill spokesman said. "Punters calculate that if Major loses, he will be dumped, and when they look around for a replacement, they won't be able to find anybody else."

## Labour's debt rises in poll alert

By NICHOLAS WOOD

A LATE election will add to Labour's financial woes, according to a report to be submitted to the party's annual conference this month.

The report from Labour's national executive committee says that the expense of keeping the party on an election alert and the failure of a membership drive have plunged it further into debt. It lost £289,000 last year after budgeting to break even, and had an accumulated deficit of £1.57 million.

"Expectation of a June (1991) election meant some frontloading of expenditure, and going through to June 1992 could prove a problem," the report says.

## Prison alarm

An officer at Winchester prison has been interviewed by police over the alleged smuggling of imitation firearms into the jail. It is understood that the officer is now at home on sick leave. Andrew Hunter, Conservative MP for Basingstoke, expressed his "total alarm" at the claim and was trying to contact Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, yesterday. "It is very, very alarming," he said.

## Dutch arrests

AN IRISHMAN, aged 45, identified only as P.M., was arrested by Dutch police yesterday. He faces extradition to Belgium, where he is wanted in connection with a shooting in Antwerp in 1989 in which a policeman was wounded. A woman was also arrested in the pre-dawn operation in central Amsterdam. It was not known whether she was implicated in the Antwerp incident, Dutch police said.

## Wasp kills wife

Hazel Smith, aged 71, died in her husband's arms yesterday after being stung by a wasp as she relaxed under a plum tree in the garden of her home in Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. Mrs Smith was asleep when the wasp flew into her mouth. She managed to run indoors but died minutes later as her husband tried to help her.

## Prisoners to get 'contracts' in bid to keep jail peace

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS are to be offered individual "contracts" detailing their entitlements to work, education, exercise and recreation as part of a bolder-than-expected response by ministers to last year's jail riots.

When fully developed, the contracts will not only stipulate inmates' general entitlements, but will also lay down personal "action programmes", designed to reduce the chances of them reoffending after completing their sentences. Inmates making good progress will receive better regimes, with more privileges such as home leave.

The Home Office was alarmed at first by the recommendation of the Woolf report into the April 1990 riots that prisoners should be offered contracts. Ministers and senior officials feared that the documents could be used by disgruntled inmates to launch

legal actions against the department.

The department, however, while still uneasy about calling the forms contracts, now feels the system could play a key part in creating more constructive and stable jail regimes. Inmates signing the documents would have a vested interest in ensuring that jails remained trouble-free, it believes.

The contracts, annually renewable, would not be compulsory and there would be no sanctions for prisoners who declined to sign. Although not legally enforceable, they could be used by inmates in applications for judicial review against the Home Office.

Ministerial acceptance of the idea will be confirmed in the government's white paper on penal reform, due to be published shortly. The paper will also recommend that the annual contracts agreed be-

tween governors and area managers should be more detailed and that each year an over-arching document, outlining the service's targets and funding for the next year, should be drawn up by the home secretary and the head of the prison service.

Clear signs have emerged in recent weeks that ministers have sought to harden up the white paper. The paper, however, will reject Lord Justice Woolf's call for strict curbs on jail overcrowding and on the use of police cells as temporary accommodation.

The paper will approve in principle the judge's recommendation that inmates should be held close to their homes in "community jails", but will point out that creating such prisons can only be a long-term project. Officials foresee each region being served by a cluster of jails comprising, ideally, of a remand centre, a jail for sentenced offenders and a young offenders' institution.

One senior Home Office source last night described the government's forthcoming endorsement of contracts for prisoners as a "radical move" testifying ministers' commitment to real change within the embattled jail network.

The contracts plan was welcomed by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro). "Contracts detailing what staff should provide in way of work, education and so on will play a vital part in the drive to improve prison standards."

Ministerial hostility to the Woolf report's demand for a new rule barring jails from holding more inmates than their "normal certified accommodation" is criticised today by the Penal Affairs Consortium, representing 21 organisations supporting jail reform. Vivien Stern, director of Nacro, one of the consortium's members, says: "A clear target date for ending overcrowding must form part of any genuine programme of reform."



IRA attack: soldiers guarding forensic teams searching debris at the pizza restaurant at Warrenpoint, Co Down, yesterday after six people were injured when an IRA mortar bomb aimed at an RUC station fell short

## Brooke is ready for new talks

By EDWARD GORMAN

IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday made clear he was ready to begin consultations with the province's political leaders in an attempt to restart his devolution initiative.

Mr Brooke said he wanted to engage in "low key and relaxed" conversations with politicians to ascertain their starting positions for a new round of talks on the political future of the province. "I do not think there is any difficulty in exploring the basis on which we could have talks ahead," Mr Brooke said on *The World This Weekend*.

● The IRA fired a mortar at Warrenpoint RUC station in Co Down early yesterday morning from a car parked in the town's main square. The round fell short of its target and hit a pizza parlour, slightly injuring six people.

## Northern city boss who defied the stereotype

FIVE years ago, the prospect of the Labour party being judged by the performance of its councillors would have sent a shiver down the spine of Neil Kinnock. Today he openly boasts of their achievements.

The drive to banish the "loony left" from Labour-controlled town and county halls has been led by Mr Kinnock, but it would have been impossible to carry through without people such as Jeremy Beecham. Mr Beecham, aged 46 and leader of Newcastle city council, will formally take over as chairman of the Labour-dominated Association of Metropolitan Authorities at its annual conference in Huddersfield tomorrow.

He is one of those Labour councillors who refused to be browbeaten by the hard left, who defied the wrath of union leaders, and who has now emerged in the vanguard of the new model Labour party in local government. A solic-

**Douglas Broom profiles the man who has played a large part in helping Labour banish the loony left image in local government**

Tendency from district Labour parties has helped to drive the hard left from the council chamber. Pockets of resistance remain, but it is indicative of the changes in progress that Labour-controlled York city council provided one of the models for the government's citizen's charter.

Mr Beecham, respected for his quick mind and once tipped for a seat in the shadow cabinet, is said to have devised Labour's Quality Commission plan to improve public services. After standing unsuccessfully for Tynemouth in 1970, he was offered the safe Labour seat of Tyne Bridge in 1985. But he withdrew, incurring the wrath of Roy Hattersley, the deputy Labour leader, who had personally endorsed him.

"I woke up one morning and knew I could not go through with it," he said. "I had seen what it did to others. If I had been an MP, I would have been divorced by now. I can honestly say that when someone else won the seat, I did not feel so much as a twinge of envy."

Now senior figures in the Labour party talk of offering him a peerage when he steps down as chairman of the AMA.

Under his leadership, Newcastle has eschewed creative accounting and avoided poll tax capping. "There is no sense in falling into that trap," he said. "You only get things done for the people you represent by being realistic. I have been a new realist for 30 years. It is a question of using common sense to achieve your political ambitions."

"In Sheffield, at one stage, they got themselves into the position of taking orders from the district party. That was daft. You cannot let an outside body dictate to the elected council." His brand of socialism would have led to him being shouted down in Lambeth. "That sort of thing happens here, but only in the Labour group meeting, not the council chamber."

Mr Beecham was born in Leicester, but his parents moved to Newcastle when he was two and he was educated at a state grammar school before going to University College, Oxford. He returned to the North-east and joined a law firm, where his principal articles was a former Labour mayor of Gateshead. He is now senior partner in his own law firm.

Douglas Broom, page 12

## Restaurants selling poisoned salmon

By ELAINE FOGG

LEADING restaurants could be putting their customers in danger by serving stolen salmon killed with cyanide, the National Rivers Authority said yesterday.

Organised gangs of thieves frequently use cyanide to poison rivers full of salmon, according to the authority. They then scoop the dead fish out of the water and sell them to restaurants.

Cameron Durie, the authority's North-West area fisheries and recreation manager, said last night that prosecutions had increased with the onset of the poaching season this month.

"It's not just the lower end of the market that buy the fish," Mr Durie said. "Many of the restaurants we have prosecuted recently have been high-class establishments in the high-quality food market."

They don't seem to be bothered that they are buying stolen fish, and some of them don't know how the fish has been caught, stored or transported."

Mr Durie said that in the past year the rivers authority had prosecuted about 600 salmon poachers in the North-West alone. "It's not a case of the local poacher taking a couple of fish for his pot. These are organised gangs who drive in from the big cities, steal fish, and then drive back to the cities to sell them."

More than 100 of the authority's staff in Lancashire and Cumbria are working around the clock to try to thwart the poachers. The authority says that the thieves are taking thousands of fish a year and are seriously depleting salmon populations in the region.

## Rule urged on babies in adverts

By NIGEL HAWKES

SCIENCE EDITOR

THE director of the Birth Defects Foundation has written to the Advertising Standards Authority for advice on the use of pictures of newborn babies in advertisements.

The clothing company Benetton withdrew a colour poster last week showing a blood-spattered baby attached to the umbilical cord after the authority received more than 800 protests from the public.

Sheila Brown, of the Birth Defects Foundation, wrote to Matti Alderson, the authority's director-general, asking: "Are all photos of newborn babies subject to your advice that they cause 'public distress and outrage' or only the one featured in the Benetton advert?"

She enclosed an advertisement the charity is to run in an autumn appeal, showing a baby soon after birth, but washed and without umbilical cord. Every day in Britain 124 babies are born with a health defect, and 25 children die from causes linked to birth defects, she said.

## Museum aims to show off the best of British rubbish

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MUSEUMS are having to get inventive about their choice of exhibitions to the point of being bizarre, to draw more people through their often austere portals. In mounting its most ambitious project yet, the Liveness Museum, in Peckham, south London, is scraping the bottom of the dustbin. The Great Rubbish Show opens there on Wednesday.

Rubbish is suddenly popular in the United States, where contents of celebrities' dustbins make a useful feature subject for glossy magazines. There is even a museum of garbage, at Hackensack, New Jersey. In Britain, however, the Liveness venture is the first attempt to put detritus on a pedestal.

The small local museum in the Old Kent Road has no collections of its own and has been organising the exhibition for a year. "The cusp at which rubbish turns into treasure is a matter of perception," Ken Arnold, assistant keeper, said. "It's only rubbish because we choose to throw it away."

Garbology, the exhibition

will explain, is a new word for the ancient study of rubbish, a science for archaeologists. "You can tell more about people from what they throw away than almost anything else," Mr Arnold said. There are loans, from the Museum of London, of Roman jars, Tudor shoes and a Victorian potty, all from ancient tips.

To introduce the theory of recycling rubbish, the museum has created a cartoon character, Dumpasaurus, whose adventures demonstrate that very little actually comes to the end of its useful life. The exhibition is aimed at a 12-year-old audience and their families. Hands-on exhibits will show that the average family of four throws away a ton a year.

In 1985, the average Pole threw away 212 kilograms, a Briton 291 kilograms, a Japanese 342 kilograms each and an American 742 kilograms.

The Americans have become so conscious of their dump rate that recycling has become an obsession to the extent that in New York

there are policemen whose duty is to inspect people's dustbins for usefully recyclable items and, if they find any, to fine the owners.

Recycling is old hat in some societies, though. The exhibition will have South African bowls made of telephone flex, Egyptian mats made from biscuit wrappers, Indian lanterns made from fly spray cans and musical instruments ranging from the respectable steel oil drum "pans" of the Caribbean to the olive oil can guitars of the Middle East. There is a necklace made of piano keys, and the museum shop will sell necklaces made of clay pipe stems. Artists are inspired by trash, and the vases raised 10ft above the pavement outside the museum is a mighty horse sculpted by Anthony Heywood out of rubbish.

After nine months at the Liveness, the exhibition will go to Halifax, Edinburgh, Milton Keynes and Bristol with the help of the Museums and Galleries Commission and packaging industry sponsorship.



Riding high: Anthony Heywood drops in at the Liveness Museum, London, on the horse he created from rubbish

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# Solicitor sues Law Society over misconduct claims

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SOLICITOR is suing the Law Society, his professional body, for £100,000 compensation after what he claims were wrongful and malicious disciplinary proceedings against him for professional misconduct.

The proceedings were launched against Richard Dawson, of Manchester, after complaints from two other firms of solicitors, with whom he used to work, over his handling of costs in a building dispute. However, when the charges came up before the disciplinary tribunal, the Law Society — through its prosecuting solicitor — dropped one charge and did not proceed with the other.

Mr Dawson, aged 43, maintains his reputation and prac-

tice have been damaged. He had the allegations hanging over him for two years, in which time the Law Society had imposed a condition on his practising certificate, requiring him to practise in partnership. He claims that the attaching of that condition was done in breach of the procedural rules and was outside its powers. Because of the pending proceedings against him, he was unable to join any solicitor in partnership and was effectively out of work for two years, he says.

Douglas Stewart, his solicitor, said: "These complaints were pursued with zeal and gusto in our view, and, we believe, were not properly investigated. If they had been, they would never have been

proceeded with." Mr Dawson, who has since successfully rebuilt his practice, had had two and a half years of his life written off, Mr Stewart said.

Mr Dawson is claiming ordinary and exemplary damages because of what he claims was the "unlawful, arbitrary and oppressive" conduct of the Law Society. The claim, likely to be heard next year, is thought to be unprecedented because although the society has faced judicial review proceedings over its disciplinary actions (settled out of court), this is the first time a High Court action for compensation in such a case has been lodged. Mr Dawson is also suing the solicitor who investigated the complaint for the Law Society, Andrew Hopper.

The complaints against Mr Dawson were made in April 1986 and dropped in November 1988. He approached Mr Stewart about a claim in 1989.

The Law Society and Mr Hopper deny Mr Dawson's claims. They maintain they acted properly, in good faith, impartially and speedily at all times. As for not dropping the charges until late in the proceedings, they say they could not have been expected to know until a week before the hearing what Mr Dawson's defence would be nor how it would be presented.

Only then did the "weight" of his defence first become apparent. Mr Hopper then took immediate steps to withdraw one charge and not to proceed with the other.

Eric Hiley, a Law Society official, said: "As far as breaching the rules over imposing the condition on the practising certificate, there may be an arguable case that a mistake was made. But even if there is, we take the view that we are not legally liable anyway, in any event, and we also dispute that any mistake affected Mr Dawson's livelihood."

## Firms propose justice ministry

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A MINISTRY of justice, reforming the way judges are appointed and changes to divorce laws allowing marriage contracts and no-fault separation are among key changes proposed by the Law Society in its first manifesto published today.

The booklet, *Access to Justice*, contains nearly 70 proposals for reform based on the experiences of 55,000 practising solicitors in England and Wales and on research done by the society's committees.

John Hayes, secretary-general of the society, said: "Access to justice means not just access to lawyers and the courts. Maintaining a well-balanced legal system requires ministers and legislators to ensure that the system can be operated and that it produces fair results."

The manifesto proposes big institutional changes and

more modest reforms. It also wants to end the system of split responsibility for the courts and legal system.

On judicial appointments, the society wants a commission consisting of judges, practising and academic lawyers and laymen to oversee the system and ensure it is free from bias.

Other reforms include ending no-fault divorce, bringing in divorce as a process over time encouraging couples to try to resolve disputes before going to court, and contracts detailing property ownership.

Top regional law firms are earning more than £135,000 in average profit per partner, according to a magazine survey to be published this week. The *Legal Business* survey also shows that they are increasingly challenging the supremacy of London as the country's legal centre.

## Flamingos to turn a whiter shade

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PINK flamingos at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, are expected to turn white during the next year.

Research workers there are giving 90 of them, including five new chicks, an experimental diet lacking in the ingredient that is known to give them their salmon-pink shade — carotenoids, a pigment the flamingos get from shrimps, molluscs and algae in the wild. The breeding herd at Slimbridge have retained their natural colour by being fed a synthetic version of the pigment, but commercial production has now been threatened by health regulations.

Simon Pickering, who is responsible for the research, believes that another artificial pigment, astaxanthin, would serve as well, but before trying that in the birds' diet he wants to see how they will get on free of additives. The behaviour of the pale flamingos will be studied for a year and compared with what happens when the new pigment is introduced.

Dr Pickering does not think that depriving the flamingos of the pigment will have any direct effects on their health. What interests him is how the colour change will affect behaviour, particularly mating rituals. He suspects that the lack of colour might rob the birds of recognition markers used when the birds mate.

The research is unlikely to provide the answer to the question most often asked by visitors to Slimbridge, which provoked an intense correspondence recently in *New Scientist*: why do flamingos stand on one leg? Dr Pickering has already eliminated one plausible theory, that by tucking one leg up into their body feathers flamingos can halve their heat loss in cold weather. Observation by students showed no seasonal variation. The real question, Dr Pickering insists, is a wider one. Not only flamingos but other birds and even human beings, if forced to stand for long periods, do so with more weight on one leg than the other. Why, Dr Pickering does not claim to know, but it is unlikely to be anything to do with additives in their diet.

## Schools get good parental report

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN out of ten parents are satisfied with the quality of their children's education, according to a survey published today. Fewer than half would opt for the private system if they could afford it. The Gallup poll for BBC Radio Five's *It's Your School* programmes found widespread support for traditional education. Two-thirds of the 2,000 adults questioned thought there was too little emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar. English and mathematics were judged to be the most important subjects, with computing rated ahead of foreign languages. Religious education rated the lowest.

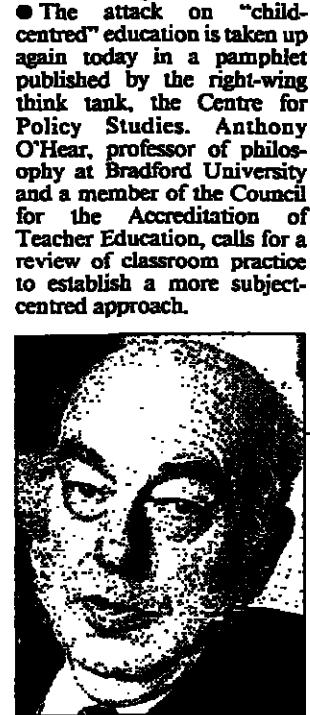
A quarter of those with school-aged children were dissatisfied with the quality of education and six out of ten said they would like to be consulted more by schools. Nine out of ten had been granted places at their first-choice school, and more than 70 per cent were satisfied with the outcome.

Only one in five parents would choose single-sex education for girls, and one in seven for boys. The continuing support for mixed education flies in the face of analyses of this year's examination results. A survey of state schools in yesterday's *Sunday Times* placed 33 single-sex schools in the top 50 for A and B grades at A level.

Reading standards are lower than they were when compulsory state schooling was introduced 120 years ago, a former Conservative education minister claimed yesterday. Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North, told a conference in Westminster, Cathedral that literacy and poor reading standards were holding back economic progress, as well as representing a tragedy for the children and adults concerned.

Children should take a single reading test at the age of seven, with those who failed given intensive language tuition before being tested again, he said. Only those who passed would be allowed to move to a higher class.

The attack on "child-centred" education is taken up again today in a pamphlet published by the right-wing think tank, the Centre for Policy Studies. Anthony O'Hear, professor of philosophy at Bradford University and a member of the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, calls for a review of classroom practice to establish a more subject-centred approach.



Boyson: reading standards lower than 120 years ago

## Gulf war objector faces trial

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN ARMY corporal who deserted because he did not want to fight in the war against Iraq faces a court martial today.

Lance-Corporal Vic Williams, aged 28, went absent from his unit, the 27th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, the day before he was due to leave Germany for Saudi Arabia. He also faces charges of conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. He spent 72 days on the run and spoke at a number of anti-war rallies. He said that he went absent without leave because he disagreed with the reasons for going to the Gulf.

The hearing will be at Woolwich, south London. Jim Boscorworth, aged 26, a former lieutenant in The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, plans to chain himself to railings outside the Ministry of Defence today to protest at delays faced by soldiers seeking compensation for injuries.

He said many soldiers injured in accidents allegedly caused by defence ministry negligence were having to wait several years. "There are 1,200 servicemen and women disabled or disabled in accidents who have so far received no compensation," he said.

## Satellites put trig points out of job

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ONE of Britain's most familiar landmarks, the triangulation pillar that crowns the hills and provides a reassuring presence for walkers, faces a slow extinction by neglect.

The development of satellite mapping means that the concrete "trig points", many of them erected in high and inhospitable places by the Ordnance Survey, have outlived their usefulness as the basis of maps. All climbers who have come across one of the pillars in fog or snow have blessed them as a cast-iron check of their position, so there is concern that they are now to be allowed to go into a natural decline.

By the end of this year, the Ordnance Survey expects to complete a satellite-based network of stations, making

it no longer necessary to be able to see each trig point from the next one.

Of Britain's 6,000 trig pillars only about 350 will survive as fixed points in the new satellite system. The rest can no longer rely on the Ordnance Survey to keep them trim. They are sturdy built, so will not disappear overnight, but in the long term their future cannot be guaranteed. "We cannot justify spending large amounts of taxpayers' money on monuments we have no further use for," the survey unsentimentally puts it.

The Ramblers' Association is concerned that the decay or removal of the pillars will make hill-walking more difficult and dangerous, although the association is reluctant to take the pillars over itself.

## Women losing their jobs at faster rate than men

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT among women in Britain is growing faster than among men, according to the latest analysis of unemployment figures conducted by *The Times*.

The change, which reverses a previous trend, comes in advance of the latest monthly unemployment figures, to be published on Thursday. They are expected to show a further jump in the number of people out of work, with the increase in unemployment in August privately forecast by government statisticians again to be more than 60,000. That would take the total out of work, seasonally adjusted, to about 2,430,000.

Ministers, who were given preliminary information about the figures over the weekend, will be particularly anxious about this and the next few months' unemployment totals, since unemployment — and especially its rate of change — will be one of the principal economic factors taken into account when a decision is made on whether the general election will be held in November or next year.

Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, will today try to push the issue back up the political agenda after the summer holidays by claiming that unemployment



Blair: trying to put jobless on the agenda

will rise to more than three million if the Conservatives are re-elected for a fourth term.

The *Times* analysis suggests that the balance of unemployment between men and women might be changing. Given the importance to all political parties of securing the women's vote, those early signs of movement may carry greater political significance than might first appear.

The analysis, carried out using data held on employment department computers, suggests that for the first time since the change in unemployment between men and women stabilised last year after unemployment started to rise again in March, female unemployment is rising at a

quicker rate than that among men. In July, seasonally adjusted unemployment rose 2.83 per cent, or 65,100, over the figure for June. For men it rose 2.93 per cent, or 51,000, and for women 3.01 per cent, or 16,700.

Although the analysis is based on one month's figures only, and cannot be treated as a longer-term change until more figures are available, the rate of growth of unemployment among women has not exceeded that among men at any point since unemployment started to rise again last year after falling for almost four years.

Apart from August last year, unemployment among women continued to fall long after male unemployment started to rise. Female unemployment started a definite upward trend only in October last year, while the increase among men was established much earlier, in May.

The increase in the rate of change in unemployment from June to July was particularly sharp for women — 38.7 points against 10.6 points for men.

Since unemployment started to increase overall last year, male unemployment has risen by 52.5 per cent while that among women has risen by only 33.5 per cent. Total unemployment has risen by 47.4 per cent.

Whisky stop: the men of the Lonach Highland and Friendly Society passing for refreshments on their 40-mile march from Strathdon, in the Grampians, and back again after presenting their new colours to the Queen at the Braemar Gathering (Alastair Robertson writes). Led by their patron, 75-year-old Major Sir Hamish Forbes, of Newe, on horse-

back, the 100 men camped on Friday night outside Braemar Castle before parading at the Braemar Games on Saturday morning. After a ceilidh on Saturday night, they marched home yesterday to the sound of their pipe band, led by Pipe Major John Laing. The march was a re-enactment of one of the society made in 1853 to be inspected by Queen Victoria.

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## Holiday home bomb alert

Police yesterday warned owners of holiday homes in North Wales to be on their guard after the discovery of a second firebomb believed to have been planted by Welsh extremists.

The burnt-out incendiary device, still smoking, was found in an unoccupied house in Bala, Gwynedd, after an anonymous call on Saturday to the Samaritans in Bangor.

Earlier on Saturday, an unexploded device was found in a tourist office in Llangefni on Anglesey after an anonymous call. Police said the caller, speaking in a Welsh accent, had not claimed responsibility on behalf of any group. But a North Wales police spokesman said that it was being treated as part of the continuing arson campaign by Welsh extremists.

## Five arrested after shooting

Police have arrested five people in connection with the shooting of a man in Chinatown, Soho, London, on Saturday night. Three men arrested in Manchester overnight were yesterday brought to London, where two others are already being questioned.

The wounded man, who has not been named, was in a stable condition yesterday at University College hospital, central London.

## Ford leak action

Ford is to be prosecuted following a leak of poison gas from its car plant at Halewood, Merseyside, on May 17 which left 30 people needing hospital treatment for fume inhalation and skin contamination. The case goes before Huyton magistrates, Merseyside, on September 26.

## Crossing death

British transport police are investigating the death of a woman whose car was struck by a high-speed train on a level crossing at Padworth, Berkshire. It is believed that her husband was telephoning the signalman after opening the unmanned gates when the accident happened.

## Home must go

Paul and Liz Paynter have been told to pull down their £117,000 home at Heysham, Lancashire, after Lancaster council said it breached planning regulations.

## Sellers plaque

A plaque is to be placed outside the former home of the actor Peter Sellers in Highgate, north London.

## £800 in a name

The signature of Edward VIII appointing an envoy to Venezuela in 1936 and counter-signed by Anthony Eden is expected to raise £800 at an auction in Nottingham.

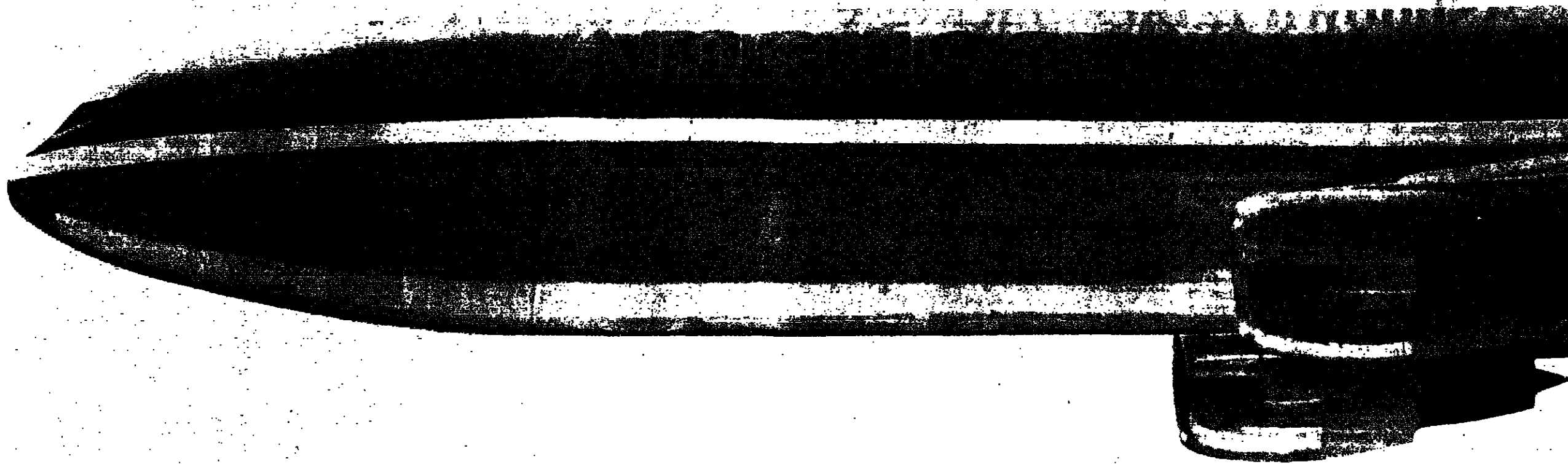
## Hospital cheers

Cocktail bars are being installed in the rooms of private patients at Cheltenham general hospital.

## Bond winners

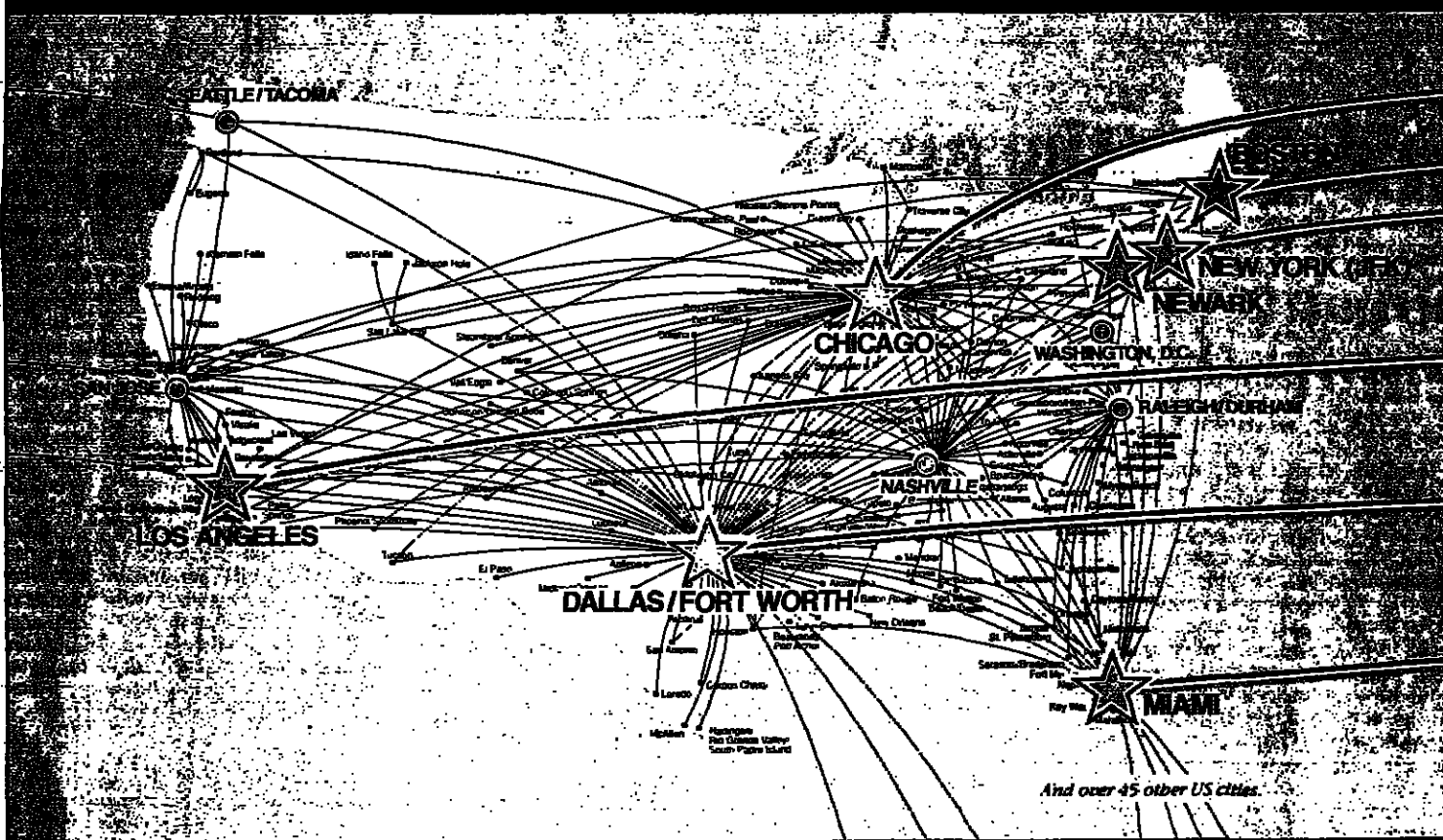
Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bonds prize draw are: £100,000, number 27BF 340587, winner lives in Gloucester, value of holding £10,000; £50,000, 10SN 517047 (Hounslow, London, £570); £25,000, 22SB 300805 (Surrey, £260).





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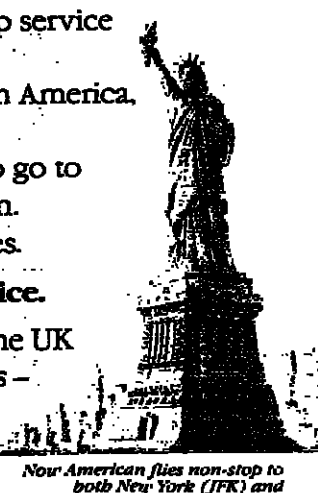
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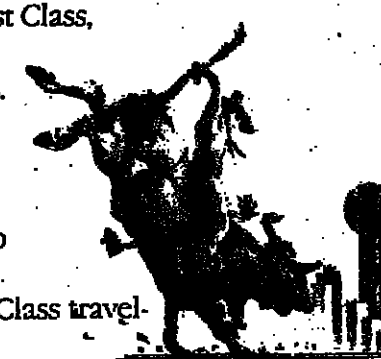
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Lib Dems focus on Europe, the economy, education, the environment and electoral reform

## Ashdown tables package for distinctive central party

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

TWO years ago, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that he would sell his grandmother for a bit of definition. Now, he argues, the message has been defined but has yet to be sold.

That will be the test of the conference which began in Bournemouth yesterday. How does he win attention for his party's policies, with media and public unconvinced that it has a chance of winning power and concentrating on its terms for sharing it with others.

Mr Ashdown has been heartened by the past year, with 500 seats gained against the odds in local elections and parliamentary by-election successes at Eastbourne and Ribbles Valley. He told his colleagues back in April to expect their opinion poll rating to dip to 10 points or so in the summer. They have instead come through at about 14 to 15 per cent, with 19.5 per cent in one recent poll — double their standing this time last year.

It is, in centre party terms, a healthy platform for a general election campaign and Mr Ashdown says: "I have a strong sense that we are being looked over. We are being test-driven."

Maintaining the morale of a party that appears as remote from power as the Liberal Democrats have these past three years takes faith as well as stamina. But Mr Ashdown has lit an ingenious beacon. It is impudent, he says, to make comparisons with eastern Europe and he does not seek quite to do that. But he argues: "Britain is on the edge of a period of democratic revival. If we capture that right then things can happen extremely fast." He will not, however, be proclaiming any false dawns this week. Harking back to David Steel's famous cry, he says: "I am not going to say,

'go back to your constituencies and prepare for government'. I will say, 'don't waste time on predictions. Don't waste time asking what the result will be but spend all your time standing on your own ground and saying what you believe in'." He wants the message to be definite enough for people to vote against his party as well as for it.

He believes that Labour, abandoning its principles in a "dash for power" and playing safety first, has missed its opportunity to capitalise on people's feeling that there is a need for change. He had always believed that John Major would come through and says: "He's done well."

Has not the departure of Margaret Thatcher, the arrival of Mr Major, and Labour's marginalisation of the left, squeezed the centre ground of politics? Not the right question, Mr Ashdown says. That was not the ground he wanted to occupy. "There is no role for a centre party if it is just positioned somewhere between the other two. If I don't have a distinctive party for the next election I'll be dead."

Mrs Thatcher's departure "was the event I needed to become equidistant between the two parties in the sense of disliking them both equally". He attributes his party's improved standing to three factors: the luck he had in being able to project himself during the Gulf war and the upheaval in the Soviet Union, the discipline exerted on the party by its 3,500 councillors nationwide, 2,300 of them in or sharing power in local government, and hard work on the party's finances and organisation.

Those have, he claims, made the Liberal Democrats as professional now as any of the others. "And you can't pretend you can handle power in Britain if you cannot man-



Outlook sunny: Mr Ashdown as the convention met in Bournemouth yesterday. He predicted a democratic revival that would boost his party

age your own affairs." But what do they stand for? The package that delegates will be asked to vote on this week includes a spending programme on education, which he will outline tomorrow, with a readiness to increase income tax 1p to pay for it, decentralised pay bargaining in the public sector, pollution taxes to improve the environment, a commitment to the single European currency and an independent central bank and, of course, electoral reform.

Mr Ashdown's leadership

has been about teaching Liberal Democrats not to treat profit as a dirty word and making his a free market party. It has proved easier than he expected. He says: "Now for the first time in my life I feel I belong to a party with a genuine economic platform which is comprehensive and distinctive."

The "social market" he dismisses as a meaningless phrase and he wants his party to face up to the reality of what the free market means "not to dodge it because of the connotations of Thatcher-

ism". But while he calls his a free enterprise party that will energetically promote small business, it is not a privatisation party. Ownership, he says, is less important than competition and how well the public is served. The Liberal Democrats will therefore oppose the privatisation of British Rail, while seeking to give private services access to BR network.

The Liberal Democrats, he says, are concentrating on the agenda of the 1990s and he promises emphasis on the five Es — education, the enterprise

economy, Europe, the environment and electoral reform. To sustain the implicit claim of "we are the radicals now" the "bumpy ride" he promised his party will be offered to the electorate.

"This country cannot get out of its mess after four decades of decline, exhausted after the second Conservative recession, with its industrial base close to critical mass and going down, with the social fabric showing considerable signs of strain and the infrastructure in decay without some very tough decisions.

Anyone who says 'vote for me and Britain will be all right' is a charlatan."

He concedes that in his confessed "passion for Europe" the Liberal Democrats have given the impression of a party ready to swallow anything "European" if it comes with a nice gift-wrapped bow from Brussels, but insists that is not altogether the case. Britain is behind Europe on everything else, he says, but ahead on dismantling corporate structures and creating liberal markets. He shares Mrs Thatcher's and Mr Major's

concerns over the social charter. "Although we are enthusiastic about the concept of Europe, it does not make us uncritical of everything Europe does."

Can electoral reform ever be made an issue to excite the general public? It must, he says, be moved away from the theoretical concerns of political scientists and related to people's lives. "Our job is easier because of the poll tax. If the Tory party, committed to common sense, could inflict that on the people then think what Labour could do in power. Poll tax has not only uprooted people's political loyalties but severely damaged their confidence in the system. With proportional representation it would never have happened."

And while he does not want to be sidetracked into talk of coalitions and pacts and what happens in a hung parliament, Mr Ashdown says that PR remains as the cornerstone of any conditions for partnership by the Liberal Democrats in government. He insists "I won't take part in another 1974. That is not right for the party or the country. I am prepared to make a lot of sacrifices for a stable government lasting the full term of a parliament. PR is the only way that such a government can be founded."

As for the rest of any deal, specific terms will be set out in advance of the election on the free market, on Europe and on education. But everyone must accept that they cannot have all their manifesto.

While he concedes that his party is still too narrowly middle class, he sees the advantage given to them in Mrs Thatcher's breakdown of class-based politics. They are not exclusively middle class, he says, in the seats they are expecting to win. "And anyway, remember that most revolutions began with the middle class."

## POLL TRENDS

## Home truths to deflate the air of buoyancy

By IVOR CREWE

LIBERAL Democrats assemble in Bournemouth today in chipper mood. In the past year they have won by-elections in the safe Conservative seats of Eastbourne and Ribbles Valley and made unexpected advances in the local elections. They now have more elected local councillors and control more town halls than in any year since the second world war. In the monthly poll of polls their support has risen from 8 to 15 per cent over the year.

Their buoyancy, however, is somewhat misplaced. They are nowhere near a parliamentary breakthrough. Their current support is well down on the 23 per cent vote

won by the Alliance in 1987, and represents a swing of 9.9 percentage points to Labour and of 2.3 points to the Conservatives. At a general election these swings would deprive the Liberal Democrats of eight of the 19 seats they won in 1987: Argyll and Bute, Brecon and Radnor, Fife North East and Southport to the Conservatives, and Liverpool Mossley Hill, Inverness and Lochaber, Rochdale, and Southwark and Bermondsey to Labour.

Two other features of their current position should trouble Liberal Democrats. First, their by-election and local election successes did not produce a popularity boost of

the normal magnitude. The old Liberal party reached 25 per cent in the polls after Orpington in the spring of 1962 and 28 per cent after Ripon and Isle of Ely in 1973. This time they have broken through 20 per cent only once.

The modesty of this recovery reflects their second problem. In the past the centre has done best when it could present itself as a moderate alternative to the extremism of the Conservative and Labour parties, as in 1972-4 and 1981-3. This time, with a modernised Labour party and a post-Thatcher Conservative party both offering moderate and pragmatic programmes, the election will be contested by three centre parties.

Nevertheless, a number of

factors could work in the Liberal Democrats' favour. They are well placed to win the coming by-election in Kincardine and Deeside, where in 1987 they came within 4.3 per cent of victory, and thus earn some precious pre-election publicity. The downside is that defeat would be a serious blow to credibility and morale.

Secondly, Paddy Ashdown's visibility and, with it, his popularity, has soared in the past year, largely due to his television appearances during the Gulf war. His Gallup poll approval rating has risen from 31 per cent to 56 per cent in the past 12 months and now stands at a higher level than John Major's 52 per cent or Neil Kinnock's 35 per cent. On past evidence, however, a popular leader does not necessarily win votes. Jo Grimond's rating in 1964 was a massive 68 per cent and David Steel's a hefty 63 per cent, but the Liberal vote was only 12 and 14 per cent respectively.

The third favourable factor is the campaign itself. The Liberal Democrats should benefit from the much greater television exposure they will get during the campaign when the producer's stopwatch gives the three parties near parity. In the eight election campaigns since 1964 the Centre vote has risen six times, stayed the same once and fallen once (in the misperceived "two leader" campaign of 1987). But the campaign bonus is unlikely to exceed 3 or 4 points — not enough to win more than an extra seat or two.

Tactical voting is the fourth factor. In theory, it could deliver extra seats to Mr Ashdown in spite of a declining vote. But commentators often exaggerate the potential impact of tactical voting, especially in general elections, when few voters are aware of the tactical situation in their

own constituency. In 1987 only 6 per cent voted tactically and the Alliance gained, at most, three seats as a result. If the nation swings back to Labour at the next election, as all the polls suggest, Labour sympathisers in Conservative-Liberal Democrat marginals are as likely to stay (or revert to) Labour as they are to vote tactically for the Liberal Democrats.

Finally, Liberal Democrats hope that the new radical edge to their programme will produce a sharper policy profile than in recent elections and garner some votes as a result. Here, too, they may be over-optimistic. Surveys show that few people pay close attention to the Liberal Democrats' programme because few believe they will form the government.

The dispiriting truth for Liberal Democrats is that the size of their vote will be determined less by any appeal of their own than by their opponents' shortcomings.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government, Essex university.

Month	% support in polls*	% approval in polls*
1990		
Jan	8	31
Aug	11	35
Sept	13	40
Oct	13	44
Nov	11	44
Dec	9	44
1991		
Jan	8	44
Feb	9	48
March	16	55
April	14	53
May	17	58
June	16	58
July	15	58
August	15	56

\* The average of all published polls that month

\*\* Taken from the Gallup poll question "Do you think Mr Ashdown is or is not proving a good leader of the Liberal Democrats?"

## Shift of power on grants proposed

CENTRAL government would lose its power over grants to local councils under reforms proposed by a new Liberal Democrat green paper, *Shaping Tomorrow's Local Democracy*. It would pass instead to a collective body of local councils (Robin Oakley writes).

Approved by yesterday's conference, the document calls for the establishment of community (parish, town or neighbourhood) councils throughout England, with greatly extended parish powers. They would take on "any functions that their citizens wish which are compatible with their income and abilities".

Between community councils and regional authorities would be the single-tier "core councils", closely matching their areas and the natural communities they serve. These, however, could remain as two-tier authorities if local conditions warranted it.

Under the proposals, all units of local and regional government would be established on the "natural community" principle rather than by size or population. All councils would be elected as a whole once every four years by proportional representation under the single transferrable vote system.

The Liberal Democrat plan calls for the replacement of the poll tax by local income tax, levied at a rate set by the council and collected through the Inland Revenue PAYE and other income tax systems. The uniform business rate would be replaced by site value rating, related to the value of the land, not the buildings on it.

The Liberal Democrats' conference yesterday condemned the proposed football superleague and also called for reconsideration of proposals that stadiums should provide

no standing accommodation. David Bellotti, MP for Eastbourne and a member of the Commons all-party football group, said the all-seat stadium proposals could force smaller clubs to the wall unless finances were made available. He said the superleague should allow promotion from the lower divisions of the league and provide a share of its profits to finance the league as a whole.

A survey in Leeds city centre disclosed that 75 per cent of people had attended an adult education course and found it valuable, the conference was told yesterday.



Bellotti: worried football clubs could go to the wall

ference was told yesterday. Brenda Pearce, Leeds North West delegate, said that Labour was already increasing prices for adult courses in the city ahead of the government's white paper being implemented in 1993.

More power over education policy should be given to governors, parents and head teachers, Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, told the conference yesterday. He condemned the use of opt-out legislation to dismantle the education service and said the party would give schools more freedom over the national curriculum.

## SDP CONFERENCE

## Activists restore-life to party

By CRAIG SETON

THE Social Democratic party was voted back into existence yesterday by 100 or so of its stalwart activists, a year after its leadership effectively wound it up.

At a two-day meeting in Coventry, a gathering of Social Democrats billed as a consultative assembly voted overwhelmingly to continue as the SDP, with a decentralised structure and a revised constitution "flexible enough to suit the current small party and, in time, the major national party which we will become".

None of the three MPs who were voted into Parliament under the SDP banner were at the meeting. David Owen, Rosie Barnes and John Cartwright were accused of winding up the party over the heads of activists who wanted to fight on.

Dr Owen announced last week that he was quitting Parliament at the next general election. Mr Cartwright wrote to the organisers of the meeting telling them that the right time to reflect on the future of the party would be after a general election, when it was known what the Social Democratic representation in Parliament would be.

The activists decided yesterday that the party's former leadership would be asked to ratify the decision to bring the SDP back to life. Jack Holmes, the meeting's chairman and co-ordinator, said yesterday that, if the MPs did not wish to become involved, the party would proceed without them. A scheme to remove Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, at that time simply Roy Jenkins MP, as leader of the infant SDP failed when two of the original "Gang of Four" voiced their misgivings about the campaign, it has emerged.

In a BBC radio series about the SDP, two of the four founding members, Shirley Williams and Bill Rodgers, discuss how Dr Owen sulked for six months after losing the leadership race and never gave Mr Jenkins his full support.

In *The Gang that Fell Apart*, a three-part series which starts on Radio 3 on Wednesday, Mr Rodgers says: "It has to be said that David Owen sulked for a period of six months after his defeat in the leadership contest." Mrs Williams says: "Roy felt that, having won that election freely and fairly and openly, he still did not have the degree of loyalty from David that he felt he was entitled to expect."

Peter Riddell, page 12

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حکومت الاحوال



## US defence chief says short-range missiles can go

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of short-range nuclear weapons based in Europe are now "practically unnecessary", Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, said at the weekend. His statement confirmed the view, increasingly held in Nato, that land-based, tactical systems can all be removed now that the Soviet military threat has changed so radically. Mr Cheney said these weapon systems no longer "[had] much validity in the new European environment". A decision to negotiate the elimination of land-based, short-range nuclear missiles, the so-called "third zero", is expected to be made at a meeting of Nato defence ministers in Sicily next month. The US and Britain will resist moves by other Nato partners, possibly Germany, also to eliminate air-launched, short-range nuclear weapons. Nato is already committed to begin negotiations to "reduce" the number of short-range systems. These are the Soviet SS21, Scud and Frog missiles and Nato's Lance. At the Nato summit in London last year, government leaders also offered to eliminate all nuclear artillery shells, "in return for reciprocal action from the Soviet Union". Mr Cheney's remarks on land-based nuclear systems, in an interview with Cable News Network, highlight the choices that Western defence ministers now face in deciding how far to cut weapons systems and force levels after the

break-up of the Soviet Union. Before the recent upheavals, it had already been agreed to prune the defence budget. By 1996 the US army will be at its smallest for more than 45 years, with the number of active divisions dropping from 18 to 12.

Now Mr Cheney is facing calls for greater cuts. Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives armed forces committee, has argued that \$1 billion (about £588 million) could be diverted from the defence budget to aid for the Soviet Union.

Mr Cheney said he regarded the changes in the Soviet Union as "very positive". He has invited Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the new Soviet defence minister, to visit America. "We think bringing in that new generation of leadership, people who are willing to take a new look at their military requirements and understand the proper role of the Soviet military — one that's not aggressive, one that doesn't threaten their neighbours; we think that's a very positive development."

But he also indicated that he would fight any moves by Congress to make bigger defence cuts. Uncertainty over the future control of the Soviet nuclear arsenal appears to lie at the heart of Mr Cheney's caution. He said: "We have no reason, at this point, to be concerned about who is in control of the Soviet nuclear stockpile. What we don't know is what the situation will

be two or three years hence, because they're still sorting out their own internal government arrangements."

There is still confusion over the future location of the Soviet Union's strategic missiles, in spite of statements from Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, that all the systems would be moved to the Russian republic. About 85 per cent of the missiles are based in Russia; the rest are in the Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Mr Yeltsin yesterday echoed warnings by General Yuri Maximov, commander of the Soviet strategic missile forces, that the Russian republic would face "an excessive economic burden" if all the systems were placed there. Mr Yeltsin said moving all the Soviet Union's nuclear arms to Russian soil would be very expensive and take at least 10 years. A better option, he said, would be to destroy the weapons as part of a 50 per cent cut in the Soviet arsenal.



King of the road: the world's most valuable car, a 1907 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, valued at £14 million, leading a convoy of 114 examples of the venerated English marque through central Hong Kong and into the Guinness Book of World Records

## Amnesty widens its scope

From REUTER  
IN TOKYO

AMNESTY International, the scourge of repressive governments, says it now plans to denounce killings, hostage-taking and other human rights abuses committed by political opposition movements.

In a statement issued on Saturday after a meeting of its governing council in Yokohama, Japan, the London-based human rights organisation said it hoped this would help thousands more victims of abuse every year. "We continue to hold governments directly responsible for the protection of human rights under international law and violations by governments will remain the focus of our work," it said. "But we must confront the atrocities committed by groups like the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka and Sendero Luminoso (the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas) in Peru."

Just as it neither supported nor opposed any government, it took no position on the resort to force by opposition groups or on their political agendas. Its "sole concern" was a humanitarian one.

## Vietnam warms to China

From CATHERINE SAMPSON  
IN PEKING

VIETNAM'S foreign minister, Nguyen Manh Cam, yesterday made a symbolic crossing of the border with China at "Friendship Pass", and will arrive in Peking today to take the final steps towards normalising relations between the two countries.

Mr Cam is the highest-level official to visit China in the 12 years since the two sides fought a brief but bloody border war. He is expected to arrange a summit this autumn between Do Muoi and Jiang Zemin, leaders of the Vietnamese and Chinese Communist parties, for China to announce the full restoration of relations.

Vietnam and China have been enemies since Hanoi invaded Cambodia in 1978 and ousted the Khmer Rouge from power the following year, but progress in the past year towards peace in Cambodia has warmed relations. The two are expected to come closer together as they find themselves isolated as remaining bastions of communism after the disbanding of the Soviet Communist party.

## Democrat star makers scent a ballot winner

After a string of liberal losers in the presidential race, Democrats are ready for a middle-of-the-road hero, Peter Stothard reports in Sioux City

The top attraction this weekend in Iowa's town of iron pig pens was the chance to act alongside Charlton Heston in *A Thousand Heroes*, a television movie about the air disaster which made Sioux City famous for a few weeks in 1989. The chance to affect the choice of Democratic candidate to fight President Bush for the White House next year came only a poor second in popular appeal.

With the presidential campaign starting later than any other in living memory, the Democrats need to turn extras into stars more than any Hollywood director does. On Friday night, they were finally signs that they might succeed.

Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas, the 45-year-old leader of a party campaign to wrest the nomination process from liberal activist control, came to this stronghold of liberal activists and won the night. Under the suspicious eyes of left-wing icon George McGovern, and his would-be successor local senator Tom Harkin, Governor Clinton set out his case for a society which "demands" from the poor as well as "gives" to them.

His call for a "bargain between government and governed" did not get the cheers of Senator Harkin's demands that workers "get off their knees" and that George McGovern's repudiators "go straight to hell". But as the \$30 (£17.75) a head audience roamed the late-night receptions after the tri-state unity dinner, Governor Clinton's words were the talking points.

Iowans know that through their caucuses, which open the voting season, they have boosted liberal losers like Mr McGovern, Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis. They are not sure they want another.

Governor Clinton offered a sophisticated mixture of liberal and conservative policies. He is not an aggressive figure. With his pink boyish face, light grey hair and blue eyes he could merge easily into the standard civic upholstery of any convention centre.

Many here still preferred the strong Washingtonian dark blues and reds of Senator Harkin. "If Charlton Heston is looking for a flight attendant trying to make management grade, Bill Clinton should stay in Sioux City," a sceptic said. But many more praised the governor's bold style of attacking President Bush. "While Tom Harkin sneers at the president's preppy background," said one, "Bill Clinton exposes his false claims to foreign policy success. America, just like the Soviet Union, is falling apart economically because of corrupt and neglectful Republican policies."

Governor Clinton's new friends dismissed "adultery and drugs" rumours about him as Republican propaganda. They preferred to praise his way of assaulting the greed of the Bush-Reagan years without appearing a class warrior.

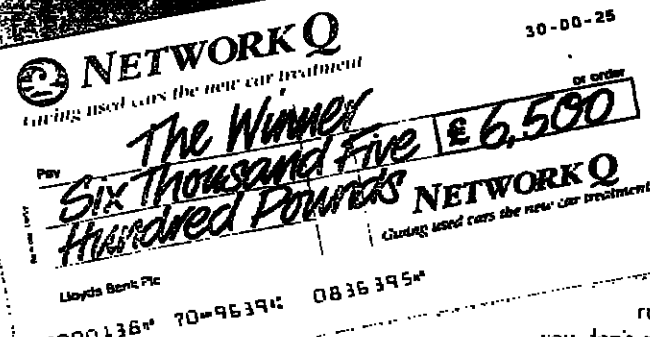
Governor Clinton is not yet a confirmed candidate. He is not expected to announce formally until next month. By then Senator Harkin, Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder, and the charismatic Senator Bob Kerry of Nebraska are also likely to have joined the field, currently occupied only by the influential but unexciting Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts.

The trail ahead for all Democrats looks hardly inviting — 10 months of Holiday Inns and media scrutiny in order to face a president of record popularity. Mr Tsongas has made himself a respected analyst of the Democrats' economic and political failure. But Governor Clinton looks the man most able to bring real change in the party.

As he left Sioux City's airport film set this weekend, he had the aura of a man whose best box-office days may be just beginning.

Clinton: looks like the man for the part

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# Economic gurus draft blueprints amid rubble of empire



Thatcher: named as possible participant

Mary Dejevsky in Moscow looks at the economic options and the people behind them as the Soviet Union finally abandons central planning

ACADEMIC economists in the Soviet Union, who have spent so much time devising grand schemes to reform a union that no longer exists, face a new task: devising the economic union or community that is projected in part to replace it.

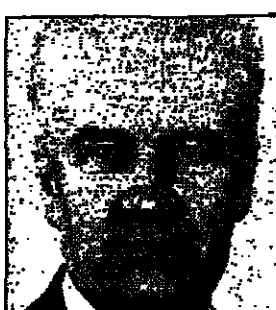
The brief is at best hazy; time is limited and competition is fierce. Unlike last year, however, the only practical obstruction is the rubble of the planned economy. The names are familiar: Stanislav Shatalin, the cadaverous guru, joint author of the "500-day" programme, Nikolai Petrakov, one-time economic adviser to President Gorbachev who quit when the president stopped listening to him, and Grigori Yavlinsky, who drafted the rejected "window of opportunity" programme which dominated the weeks before President Gorbachev's appearance at the London summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

Other names are also mentioned. Gavril Popov, the mayor of Moscow and former

reform economist, and Mikhail Bocharov, head of an experimental industrial conglomerate on the outskirts of Moscow — a rare practitioner among the theorists. From the West are cited Margaret Thatcher and Jacques Delors, an unlikely team whose separate influence on Soviet economic thinking has been greater than either may realise.

Among the Russians is also Arkadi Volsky, a loyal Gorbachevite, who has spent the last year devising alternative structures for a top-heavy, defence-dominated industrial sector. Two years ago he spent a year on secondment, trying unsuccessfully to sort out the ethnic and territorial tangle of Nagorno-Karabakh. If the pessimists are to be believed, this is the experience that will prove most applicable.

The concept of an economic union that would, in part or in full, replace the Soviet political union has been in circulation for more than a year. It was advocated last August by Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, as a more



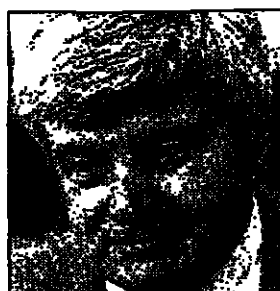
Silayev: membership is open to all comers



Yavlinsky: drafted earlier rejected plan



Shatalin: co-author of 500-day programme



Popov: Moscow mayor joins the theorists

realistic goal in the short term than a Union Treaty. Mr Gorbachev, however, wanted a political union first — and was within two days of achieving it when the coup struck. He, too, will now accept an economic union. The foundations for an

economic union were laid last week when the Congress of People's Deputies agreed to establish an interim inter-republic economic committee. This committee, to comprise an equal number of representatives from as many Soviet republics as choose to

participate, will co-ordinate economic intentions for the coming months.

It is not known how many republics will take part or how many representatives each will have. Unconfirmed reports say that 14 of the 15 Soviet republics have given provisional agreement, and representatives of all but Georgia attended a preliminary meeting of finance ministers. The Baltic states made known, before Moscow recognised their independence, that they would join such an association only if they were regarded as politically independent and could conclude bilateral agreements with other republics.

Ivan Silayev, the interim economic chief, said that membership would be open to all comers, including former members of Comecon, the East bloc trading organisation. These remarks elicited a dusty response from the East Europeans.

In every other respect, the concept of an economic union remains fluid. Several drafts have been produced, including a "community convention" compiled by Mr Shatalin. This provides for three tiers of membership — full associate, or observer. Members would undertake to encourage free enterprise, could issue their

own currency, conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements and belong to other economic groupings, so long as they pursued the same overall objectives.

Of the many debates about a future economic union, two are fundamental. They concern currency and banking and the role of central institutions. The Shatalin school and other radical economists look at the European Community and say that, so long as convertibility is achieved, the unit of currency does not matter. This would free the Ukraine to issue its own currency and enable the Baltic states to join on an equal basis with other republics. Some commentators have even said that association with a variety of stronger currencies would strengthen the rouble.

Seventy years of central planning have, according to conventional wisdom, left the Soviet republics so thoroughly dependent on one another that separation would leave each in ruins. Examples cited are the republics' monocultures. In the past week, however, this argument was challenged by Vasilii Silyunin, a prominent economic journalist, who suggested that economic performance could improve if the republics traded with each other as foreign states.



Delors: proposed as second Westerner

## KURILES ISSUE

### Baker seeks solution to territory dispute at Moscow meeting

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WHEN James Baker, the US Secretary of State, meets Boris Pankin, the new Soviet foreign minister, in Moscow this week, a new item on his agenda will have leaptfrogged the old ones of Cuba and Afghanistan. In the wake of communism's collapse, Mr Baker will be pressing for a resolution of Japan's old dispute with the Soviet Union over ownership of the Pacific Kurile islands.

This is not the altruistic act it might seem. American interests are directly involved. Washington knows that the Soviet republics will soon present the West with demands for substantial humanitarian relief and longer-

term economic assistance. The requests will be hard to reject, as they will no longer come from a stagnant centre but from democrats in the vanguard of reform. When that time comes, the administration does not want an ancient territorial dispute to stop Japan from helping to foot the bill.

Administration officials believe that this year's Soviet harvest could be 25 per cent smaller than in 1990, and that the upheavals in the Soviet Union will only exacerbate the dire distribution problems. They expect they will have to give large amounts of emergency aid this winter, and a fact-finding team led by Richard Chowder, the Under-Secretary of Agriculture, left for the Soviet Union on Friday night. A second team will be sent shortly.

American officials also realise that the sort of radical economic reforms it never expected Mr Gorbachev to produce are now likely to be forthcoming, that other political conditions, such as drastically reduced military spending, will be met, and that Washington will not be able to reject indefinitely large-scale Western economic assistance. The administration's problem is going to be finding the

cash. Its budget deficit is already at record levels, and last year the White House and Congress reached a rigid agreement to try to cut it. Nor, with so many pressing domestic problems, will the American public take kindly to huge sums being injected into the Soviet economy.

Mr Baker will also ask Moscow whether the newly-independent republics will seek to disown the Soviet Union's \$62 billion (£37 billion) external debt or defer repayments. Such action would make it far harder to borrow badly needed capital on the international markets, and further undermine the administration's efforts to extend agricultural credit guarantees so that the Soviet Union can buy American grain.

In June President Bush announced \$1.5 billion in guarantees before next February, but no American bank has yet agreed to lend Moscow the necessary money. The agriculture department is reported to be looking for other ways of financing the deals. Washington is abandoning its opposition to large-scale economic aid, if the International Monetary Fund sees the terms, but it does expect Japan and Europe to meet their fair share of the Soviet burden.

## AID STRATEGY

### France reopens G7 debate

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN THE HAGUE

THE French government yesterday reopened the simmering dispute between the rich European states over economic aid to the Soviet Union by urging a Marshall Plan for the Soviet Union.

Pierre Bérégovoy, the French finance minister, said during a visit to Moscow that Soviet needs for food and medicine were great. "The G7 and the EC must form a mechanism, a Marshall Plan to facilitate the reconstruction of the Soviet Union's economy. France and the EC will make an urgent effort," he said. Mr Bérégovoy suggested no figures, but French sources have talked of proposing that the G7 gives \$200 billion (£118 billion) over the next decade.

Both Paris and Bonn are advocating huge aid grants to the Soviet Union as it discards communism rule but also braces for the onset of winter and food shortages. The two governments argue that, with the total eclipse of the Communist party, the risk of aid being misused is lower than in the past. America and Britain have reiterated the arguments used when the Group of Seven was divided over aid to President Gorbachev before the August coup, saying that aside from emergency help, know-how is more valuable to the Soviet economy than grants.

Aid to both the Soviet and East European economies will be high on the agenda when John Major meets President Mitterrand of France on Wednesday. Last week Paris angered its EC partners by blocking plans to lower barriers to food imports from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, which are seeking EC association status.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, refused to allow the import of 500 tonnes of Polish beef to the EC. An exasperated Danish foreign minister described Mr Dumas as "living on another planet".

### Children kidnapped in new Georgian violence

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOSCOW

A FRESH wave of violence between Georgians and inhabitants of South Ossetia seeking to secede from the republic has left an unspecified number of dead and wounded over the past 24 hours, Tass reported yesterday.

In one incident 28 Ossetians, 12 of them children, were kidnapped from a bus coming from Tskhinvali, the South Ossetian capital, Tass said. No further details on their disappearance were available. The violence flared after Georgia declared its independence from the Soviet Union last week, and has sent

more refugees fleeing into North Ossetia, which is part of the Russian Federation.

More than 30,000 refugees are already crowded into the North Ossetian capital, Vladikavkaz, and that number could swell to 100,000, according to the North Ossetian interior minister, Georgi Kantemirov, quoted by Tass. The situation in South Ossetia, which had been calm in recent months, turned violent again as demonstrators in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, were calling for the resignation of the Georgian president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### Conference goes ahead after long, hard campaign

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

DESPITE the turmoil of the coup attempt and its tumultuous aftermath, the Soviet Union is to host an international conference on human rights tomorrow, convinced that its recent reforms have demonstrated to the world its commitment to all the human rights obligations of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The one-month European humanitarian forum in Moscow will be attended by Douglas Hurd and other foreign ministers from 27 countries, who will stay for the opening day. It will bring

about 20,000 representatives from international and non-governmental organisations and will follow two similar meetings in Paris in 1989 and Copenhagen last year.

The first item on the agenda will be the admission of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as full members of the CSCE. Moscow recognised their independence only last Friday.

The main issue this year, however, will be minority rights, a particularly sensitive question in the Soviet Union now. President Gorbachev will open the conference, and he and Boris Pankin, the new foreign minister, are likely to

insist that the new constitution and radical changes in the balance of power have given minority groups here a much bigger say in their own affairs.

Moscow campaigned long and hard to host the meeting, seen here as a prelude to a second Helsinki conference to be held next year. For a long time Western countries doubted whether the Soviet record merited attendance, and Britain decided to come only in July.

The Soviet government had adopted several new laws in the run-up to today's meeting to codify its commitment to human rights. Last

week's extraordinary congress of people's deputies adopted the declaration summing up rights and freedoms appropriate for the country, whatever its constitutional settlement. This guaranteed the freedom of speech, conscience and religion, the right to found political parties and trade unions, and to be elected. It also dealt with privacy, the right to work, social protection and the right to free education.

In a move intended to give the conference greater non-governmental credibility, the Soviet hosts have agreed to run a parallel programme on human rights where in-

terested parties such as movements to encourage Jewish emigration can look at the current situation. Similar non-governmental groups were convened in Paris and Copenhagen. Moscow is likely to drop its old practice of barring foreign observers from the sphere of human rights in the Soviet Union.

Jewish groups still have complaints about the Soviet record, saying in particular that the massive recent rise in the cost of a passport will inhibit emigration.

Britain promised to take the evidence of some groups into account when meeting here. Moscow may also be

put on the defensive over its more liberal travel and emigration laws, which were finally enacted in June but do not take full effect until 1993.

In another sign of willingness to allow discussion of all social and minority rights, Tass, the official news agency, announced at the weekend that a two-day seminar on the human rights of lesbians and homosexuals was held to coincide with the CSCE meeting.

The decision to allow the family of Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB defector, to join him in Britain was also timed to precede the opening of the conference.



New title: Soviet military academy students in Leningrad reading the city's evening newspaper which until Friday was called the *Evening Leningrad* but which now carries the title of *Evening Petersburg*.

## Window on the West is reopened

FROM RICHARD BALMFORTH IN LENINGRAD

PEOPLE in the Soviet Union's second city expressed satisfaction yesterday at the restoration of its old name of St Petersburg and said it might now fulfil its historic destiny of becoming Russia's window on the West.

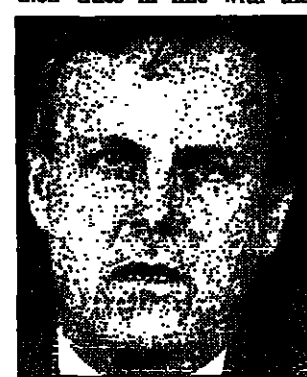
"It is very symbolic at this time. It means a lot to people to get away from the (communist) past and go back to the beginning," said Viktor Sakharov, a technician. "Maybe now we can start a new future."

Russia's leaders decided to scrap the name Leningrad on Friday. The change of name will officially take effect on October 1. It was a dramatic break with communism for the birthplace of the 1917 bolshevik revolution and former capital of the Russian empire.

Residents hope that resumption of the pre-revolutionary name will give a new lease of life to a city in need of a face lift. Gaping potholes menace those lucky enough to

own a car, masonry is crumbling off elegant terraces in vast chunks, and the warren of city-centre canals no longer holds much romance.

The port city, set on the Gulf of Finland, was renamed Leningrad in 1924. Now, as in Moscow, the Communist party has been neutralised as a political force. Daily newspapers here have switched their titles in line with the



Sobchak: has the same goal as Tsar Peter

name change and outward flights from Moscow are announcing the new destination of *Sankt Petersburg*. The name change came as the city marked the 50th anniversary of the start of the 900-day siege by German forces in the second world war.

The reformist tsar, Peter the Great, founded the elegant Western-style city of palaces and canals in 1703 to become a "window on the West" and attract foreign commerce to his impoverished country. Today's radical leaders, grouped around the mayor, Anatoli Sobchak, have set themselves the same goal.

Moves are under way to establish a "free economic zone" in the city in which foreign firms could operate with large tax incentives. The city would act as a "processing centre", manufacturing imported raw materials and sending them on to what economists hope will be an expanding domestic market.

Mr Sobchak, a tall, urbane

lawyer and university professor, has emerged as a key power player in Russia since he marshalled popular opposition in his city to last month's failed coup attempt. Diplomats say the city could again become an important power centre in Russia in the new shake-up of the Soviet Union.

But Mr Sobchak, aged 54, and his fellow radicals have inherited a mass of problems from the former Communist rulers, including a chronic housing shortage for the population of five million and desperate food shortages. They also have to disentangle a local economy in which 70 per cent of firms work in one way or another for the huge military-industrial complex.

The name change was the third in the city's history. Before it became Leningrad, it was renamed Petrograd at the start of the first world war because people did not like the German ring of Saint Petersburg. (Reuter)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Voters ignore call for boycott

Moscow — The early turnout of voters was above 50 per cent in Azerbaijan's first free presidential elections yesterday in spite of opposition calls for a boycott of the poll because Ayaz Muttalibov, the republic's president, was the only candidate, local reports said. Initial surveys by Assa-Irada, a news agency close to the Azerbaijan presidency, showed that about 90 per cent of those who voted had backed Mr Muttalibov.

Voting was under way in ethnic Azerbaijani villages in the mainly Armenian autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as in the rest of the republic, the agency said. It gave no figures on the turnout in the enclave's Armenian villages, which said they would boycott the election.

Fighting broke out on Saturday between Azerbaijanis and Armenians in the enclave, leaving six people dead, Tass reported earlier. Nagorno-Karabakh has been the scene of ethnic violence for the past three years. Last week the Armenians, who make up 90 per cent of the 170,000 population, declared the region a republic after Azerbaijan proclaimed its independence from the Soviet Union in the wake of the failed coup.

Assa-Irada said voters in Nakhichevan, another autonomous region, located between the Armenian republic and Iran, had complained that they had been prevented from voting. (AFP)

### Lenin guard

Balti, Moldavia — Protesters guarding a statue of Lenin here pitched tents in an attempt to stop officials from removing it. The local population is partly ethnic Romanian, partly Slav. Separatist leaders in Kishinev, Moldavia's capital, want to put such statues in a "museum of communist kitsch". (Reuter)

### Troops leave

Vilnius — A convoy of 16 Soviet trucks and nine armoured personnel carriers has left the northern army garrison here. It was not known how many troops were in the convoy. Two Lithuanian police cars were escorting them to the Russian district of Kaliningrad that borders Lithuania to the west. (AP)

### Envoy exchange

Warsaw — Poland and the Ukraine have agreed to exchange special government envoys as an initial step towards establishing full diplomatic relations, the foreign ministers of the two countries said in a joint statement. Warsaw had earlier restored diplomatic relations with Latvia and Lithuania. (Reuter)

### Chinese refuge

Bonn — Erich Honecker, the former leader of East Germany, will seek refuge in China if he is not allowed to stay in the Soviet Union, *Bild am Sonntag* said, quoting his lawyer. The German government wants to put Herr Honecker on trial in connection with the shooting of people as they fled to the West. (AFP)

Croats and Serbs  
Osijek take grain



## Croats await 'mother of battles' as EC peace talks in The Hague head for deadlock

## Serbs target Osijek to take over grain lands

FROM ROGER BOYES IN OSIEK

NERVOUS residents here say they are now expecting the "mother of all battles". Night after night, Serb forces and their allies in the Yugoslav army have been targeting the centre of this eastern Croatian city: shells have blown holes as big as a goal mouth in buildings and vehicles have been pockmarked by shrapnel.

Yesterday the airport in Osijek came under attack from Yugoslav air force planes firing rockets and machine-guns, according to Croatian television. It said that about a dozen rockets smashed into airport hangars.

As the fighting continued, a Croat national guardman, crouching on Debrae Cesarica Street, asked for his opinion on the EC-brokered peace talks in The Hague, shooed the members of the media away. The trooper and his unit were more interested in reports of the sighting of a Serbian sniper, perched high on a block of flats.

At the Croatian local war headquarters, the talk was of mass killings. On Friday bodies of more than 20 murdered pensioners from a nearby Croatian village had been brought to the Osijek mortuary. Yesterday there were new reports of mutilated bodies of Croat prisoners.

Serb nationalists, opposed to Croatia's independence declaration, have singled out Osijek as the venue for an all-out battle. If the Serbs seize Osijek, it will deal a body blow to the Zagreb leadership, for the city is the eastern gateway to the republic. Even so, the battering of Osijek begs a more intricate explanation: the city after all has an undisputed Croat majority and Serbs make up only about 20 per cent of the 120,000 population.

The reason for the attacks on Osijek is part of the greater Serbian strategy to force Croats to flee the city, yielding territory that will provide the Serbian *lebensraum* (expansion). The Yugoslav army has helped Serbs capture the whole of Baranya, the northeastern province of Croatia wedged between the Danube and Drava rivers. Osijek, in Slavonia, is just across the Drava and next on the list. The Baranya is small, but has rich arable land and provides most of the eastern region's grain. The seizure of Osijek would amount to total control of Baranya.

Newspapers in Belgrade, the Serbian capital, proudly report that Baranya has been

"pacified" and that a new administration has been set up. "It is not peace there, it is occupation," said an outraged Ivan Racan, who leads the Party of Democratic Changes in the Croatian parliament. He and other politicians have been trying to work out a comprehensive defence for the Osijek region. Trenches are being dug and reinforcements have been arriving. Busloads of Croats living in Germany are now on the way to Osijek.

However, these measures may be insufficient to stop the onslaught. During the long nights in the underground shelters, Croats complain that Zagreb has kept for itself the most modern weapons, even Stinger surface-to-air missiles, rather than dispatching them to the front line. Many Osijek citizens are suffering from influenza because the shelters are not heated.

Attacks on Osijek's hospital and cathedral, the Yugoslav army claimed, took place because Croat marksmen were sniping from these buildings. But incompetent targeting is a more likely explanation. The army fires mortar and artillery rounds into the centre of Osijek from its training ground on the fringe of the city. It has no clear idea of where the shells are landing.

Casualties have filled the hospital to bursting point, and many lie unattended in the corridors. "Osijek is the scene of incredible war crimes," said Vladimir Selk, who heads the Croatian war centre for Slavonia and Baranya.

Until more is known about the power struggle within the Yugoslav army, it will be difficult to identify those who are destroying the city. The Osijek ceasefire, brokered last week by European Community envoy Henry Wiganandts, was signed on the army's side by a Yugoslav general in charge of the First Army District and Colonel Branko Kuznetsov of the Osijek garrison. Fifteen minutes later army infantry and heavy artillery — not just Serbian insurgents — were bombarding Osijek. So who was in charge?

Osijek police say that a few days ago, a Yugoslav army officer in the local barracks shot two of his men. The army, too, is under strain.

Osijek, writes one tourist guide, is famous for a factory which makes safety matches for the whole of Yugoslavia; enough, it seems, for every pyromaniac in the Balkans.

Leading article, page 13



War paint: Serbian civilian volunteers applying camouflage to their faces before embarking on an operation into eastern Croatia

## Macedonia joins queue to secede

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MACEDONIA'S referendum on independence yesterday is another step in the fragmentation of Yugoslavia. It brings closer the day when this dusty southern republic of 1.3 million voters, which borders Albania, Greece and Bulgaria, splits from the rest of Yugoslavia to become a "sovereign state".

The vote 'Yes' for a sovereign and independent Macedonia is a vote for confirmation and international recognition of the historical aspirations of the Macedonian people and all the citizens of Macedonia for statehood," Kiro Gligorov, the republic's president, said on Saturday.

Macedonia, a mighty empire 2,000 years ago under Alexander the Great, has sought full independence since Josip Tito, Yugoslavia's late communist ruler, put its name back on the map by making it a republic after the second world war. Slovenia and Croatia have already declared independence, saying they will move gradually towards a complete break from the rest of Yugoslavia.

Macedonia's leaders do not want an immediate and full break with Yugoslavia and rule out any army intervention. They hope the country will transform itself into a looser alliance of sovereign states of which it can be part.

Above all, Macedonia wants to be rid of the old Yugoslav federation and the

## Warlords lead Yugoslavia out of mediators' reach

The opening of the EC's Yugoslav peace conference here at the weekend has done nothing to suggest that Europe can avert a wider civil war in Yugoslavia by force of argument alone.

"We are gathered here to give reason a chance," intoned Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, as he opened the proceedings in the gothic redbrick Peace Palace. Outside the wrought-iron gates several thousand Croat and Albanian demonstrators bused in from across Europe waved banners whose slogans were long on emotion and short on reason. "Europe help me," said one.

Inside the conference, the presidents of the warring Croatian and Serbian republics traded insults before outlining uncompromising bargaining positions. Lord Carrington played up to his well-established image as the calm, patrician helmsman by describing the difficulties ahead merely as "considerable".

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that Europe was "on the edge of a disaster", and seemed to mean it.

The optimism with which the European Community leapt into the Yugoslav fray at the end of June has gone. All the Yugoslav leaders came to the conference, but the killing continues in Osijek and Vukovar. The lifespan of EC ceasefires is measured in minutes and power is moving out

Optimism that the EC could pacify the passions of hostile ethnic groups in Yugoslavia has quickly drained away, reports George Brock from The Hague

of the hands of elected politicians and into those of local warlords. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, made plain that he was the political advocate for the Serbian soldiers and irregulars who are redrawing the borders on the ground. He described the existing formal frontiers between the six Yugoslav republics as "only administrative" and claimed that he had no direct control over Serbs in Croatia. "They are independent in their decisions by the fact that they are defending their homes and their families. There is no one to give them orders."

Many conference demonstrators wore the badges of Kosovo Albanians — the round white fez, or *plis*, and red flags with black eagles. The chants for Albanian independence and the boos at mentions of Mr Milosevic were a reminder of the other simmering hatreds which could boil over in Yugoslavia. "Europe don't be naive," said one placard. "Serbs kill and rob Croatia. Who will be next?"

The peace conference has bought the EC a short grace period in which to calm its own internal divisions and search for any slim chance of peace. But most probably the community's peaceniks will soon face an uncomfortable choice between leaving Yugoslavia to become Europe's Lebanon or intervening with troops to impose a solution.

Pushed by a German government which is being swayed by a public who fervently support Slovenia and Croatia, the EC's Yugoslav policy has swung from initial support for holding the Yugoslav federation together to leaning towards the separatism of the northern republics. The conference will reach its first crunch when the EC tries to implement its principle that no border should be changed by force. Serbia has seized about one-quarter of Croatia and, if the principle means anything, will have to be asked to surrender it. The prospect of Mr Milosevic volunteering to hand over his gains — or even being able to deliver on such a promise if he offered to do so — is bleak.

The odds must be that the conference will become deadlocked or irrelevant. If this happens, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, will again press his colleagues to recognise Croatia and Slovenia.

## Moscow to help build new Concorde

Tokyo — The Soviet Union is to work with American, European and Japanese firms on a supersonic jet to succeed Concorde, according to a Japanese newspaper.

*Asahi Shimbun* said that Moscow's participation would be approved at a meeting of project members in the United States starting on Saturday. The project to replace the Anglo-French Concorde was launched in May 1990 by Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, of the United States, British Aerospace, France's Aérospatiale SNI, and the German Deutsche Airbus firm.

The newspaper said a decision had been made to admit Japan and Italy last March. It said that the Japanese firms involved in the project, which is expected to cost \$14.8 billion (£8.8 billion), are Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Fuji Heavy Industries.

The international group is exploring the potential for a jetliner which could fly 7,500 miles — nearly twice the range of Concorde — with up to 200 passengers and at more than twice the speed of sound. A flight from Paris to Tokyo would take only five hours. The newspaper said Soviet participation had been considered after the group received a request from Tupolev, the Soviet aircraft manufacturer, in June. (Reuters)

## Pact opposed

Manila — President Aquino, seeking to keep US troops in the Philippines, appealed to the senate to ratify a military bases treaty with Washington, but a move to reject it gained ground. Communist rebels, who have been fighting the American presence for 22 years, offered a truce if the senators rejected it. (Reuters)

## Fire stops ferry

New York — A fire in the Staten Island Ferry terminal in Manhattan caused the roof to collapse and service to be suspended on the famous ferry. Firefighters tackled the blaze from three boats in New York harbour and dozens of fire engines on the shore. Two people were later reported injured. (Reuters)

## Judge dies

Karachi — The judge trying the husband of Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistani prime minister, in a special anti-terrorism court, died here of a heart attack. Wajahat Hussain Siddiqui, aged 62, is the second judge to have died during the trial of Asif Ali Zardari. (AFP)

## Le Pen contest

Jean-Marie Le Pen (above), leader of France's extreme right-wing National Front, faces an election challenge from Bernard Tapie, the pro-Socialist owner of France's top soccer team, Olympique Marseille (AP writes from Paris).



Jean-Marie Le Pen (above), leader of France's extreme right-wing National Front, faces an election challenge from Bernard Tapie, the pro-Socialist owner of France's top soccer team, Olympique Marseille (AP writes from Paris).

## Killer shark

Sydney — A 19-year-old student was killed in a shark attack off a beach south of Adelaide, police said. He was among a group of nine divers about 350 yards offshore when he was attacked by a 13ft white pointer shark. It was the fourth shark attack to occur in six years in South Australian waters. (Reuters)

## Off the air

Nicosia — A demolition contractor attacked the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation headquarters with his bulldozer after receiving 300 telephone calls daily from fans of a radio chat show. Two police men were hurt in a struggle to arrest Christakis Kramanos, aged 43, whose number was similar to CyBC's. (Reuters)

## Hostage killed in Assam

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam yesterday killed one of eight hostages held for more than two months and a man who was trying to mediate their release.

The body of T.S. Raju, a government engineer, was recovered near a railway station in the Sibasagar district of the state, in the northeast of India. Four other government employees are among the seven remaining hostages.

Police said the rebel organisation was also suspected of shooting Bipul Mahanta, who had helped set up an unofficial branch office of the human rights group Amnesty International, at his home in Guwahati, the state capital, yesterday. Mr Mahanta had been acting as a mediator between the rebels, who are waging a separatist campaign, and the government.

The group warned the Assam government last week that it would kill the hostages one by one if its demands were not met. It wants the release of 16 of its members in exchange for two of the hostages. The state government had offered to release three of the prisoners.

The Assam government is considering another request to the central government to send in the army home to contain the rebels. A military sweep last year scattered the guerrillas and brought a respite from violence. But as soon as the army left, the militant group returned.

## Township ambush traps Zulus

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AT LEAST 18 people were killed and 16 injured, several critically, yesterday when 300 supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party marched into a well-prepared ambush in a black township near Johannesburg.

The Zulus, who live in a hostel in Tokoza township on the East Rand, the scene of fierce battles four months ago between the hostel dwellers and residents who support the African National Congress, were marching to an Inkatha rally in a soccer stadium when they were attacked. According to the police, they came under rifle fire from men concealed in a house as they turned into the township's main street.

Later the Zulus were reported to be back inside the hostel compound as township residents braced themselves for a revenge attack. Scores of heavily armed police were sent to Tokoza.

The ambush, the most serious single outbreak of township violence for weeks, overshadowed optimistic weekend reports that a breakthrough has been achieved over the holding of an all-party conference leading to full-scale negotiations on a post-apartheid constitution.

Gerrit Viljoen, the minister of constitutional development, was quoted as saying that, so far as the government was concerned, there was no reason why the conference should not begin next month. In his view, there was unanimity on the agenda, logistics, chairmanship and who should take part in it. His department had identified possible venues in Pretoria and had earmarked



Handled away: police carrying the body of a resident shot dead yesterday in Tokoza township, where scores of heavily armed police were sent after fresh violence

funds to prepare for it as soon as there was agreement on a date.

Last week at the National party congress in Natal, President de Klerk declared: "I am convinced we are near to a breakthrough to real negotiations." According to Dr Viljoen, the ANC, which publicly suspended contact with the government on constitutional talks in April over its perceived failure to control political violence, had resumed informal discussions as a result of the peace initiative brokered by church and business leaders. Next Saturday

the country's main political parties (excluding the white right wing) are due to sign a national peace accord at a meeting in Johannesburg. It includes draft codes of conduct for both the police and armed forces.

Dr Viljoen said that after the signing the government would hold a series of bilateral meetings with the ANC, Inkatha and other parties to complete agreement on the convening of an all-party conference.

● Hunger strike: A picture of Henry Martin, one of three right-wing hunger strikers, ly-

ing in a hospital bed in Pretoria appeared on the front page of a Johannesburg newspaper yesterday. It said it was taken last Monday, the 57th day he was reported to have gone without food.

Yesterday Mr Martin, originally from Nottingham, entered the 63rd day of his hunger strike with Adrian Maritz (57 days) and Leod van Schalkwyk (50 days). Noc Strydom, secretary of the Order of the Boer Nationalist Party, rejected suggestions that they were cheating in their fast and trying to take a sympathetic public for a ride.

## Arabs praise US move on Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT Bush's call for a delay in congressional consideration of \$10 billion (nearly £6 billion) in loan guarantees to Israel, to help resettle Soviet immigrants, till a Middle East peace conference has begun has raised expectations in the Arab world and made him an unlikely hero here.

The sudden change of mood was typified by yesterday's fulsome editorial in *Al-Akhar*, Cairo's mass circulation newspaper, which reflected both the attitude of the Egyptian government and popular Arab opinion. "Whatever the opinion may be on Washington's previous attitude, which used to side with Israel, the current position of President Bush shows that the man is bent this time on achieving what all former US administrations and presidents failed to accomplish, which is to put a radical end to the disputes between Israel and its Arab neighbours," the semi-official paper said.

"Israel is embarking on a game of crossing swords with the government of President Bush. Though the game seems to be like a match between the ant and the elephant, the ant believes that it can subdue the elephant: this is because the ant used to score victory in previous encounters through using dirty tactics and depending on a fifth column that always helped it to win."

Spokesmen for Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation also praised Mr Bush. Abdullah Nsour, the Jordanian foreign minister, said: "The American position

is positive and constructive, and it is consistent with the public US policy that building Israeli settlements in the occupied territories is an obstacle to peace." In Tunis, Khaled al-Hassan, head of foreign affairs for the PLO's Palestine National Council, said Mr Bush's "positive measure" had been taken "in the face of Israeli greed".

Syrian state radio said Israel would either succeed in securing the loan guarantees to build new settlements for Soviet immigrants, in which case Washington would "lose credibility" or meet with failure, giving Israel a pretext not to take part in the conference.

● Jerusalem: Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's prime minister, yesterday said Mr Bush's request to delay consideration of the loan guarantees could jeopardise the peace process (Paul Adams writes).

Mr Shamir told Israel Radio that if the Arabs were "handed such an unexpected gift, they will dance on the rooftops, make new and bigger demands, and this will hold back the peace process."

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Libby Purves reports on the 'outdoor therapy' which brought together a lady, a boat and the boys of an East End children's home, and created a family

## Steering boys out of trouble

There is a thread in British philanthropy which holds that the best thing you can do for the poor is to catch them young and take them to sea. Or perhaps up a mountainside. From Baden-Powell, who saw "miserable, bunched-up, narrow-chested creatures" in the city, and found a cure in knots and bell tents, it stretches to the modern practitioners of sail training for teenage delinquents. At their most robust, such schemes are marked by a bracing refusal to fit any social workerish criteria of "relevance" and street credibility, and a conviction that once you get the lads on the foredeck of a square-rigger and bark at them, their finer qualities will flower. Sometimes they do.

Rarely, however, has the outdoor therapy been so beguilingly, successfully and affectionately eccentric as in the history of Lady Rozelle Raynes, the yacht Martha McGilda, and the boys of the Edith Moorey Children's Home in Forest Gate in east London.

Over a decade of Tuesday afternoons, winter and summer, the lady and the boat loaded with shrilly squabbling little boys circled round the Albert Dock in East Ham. They practised man-over-board drills, manoeuvred through locks, sailed triumphantly past the factory chimneys of the Lower Thames, and sat in the cosy, lamplit cabin pondering over questions such as: "Your ship is five miles out to sea off the Yorkshire coast in a snowstorm, and you are making for a tiny harbour just north of Flamborough Head. How would you work out a compass course to lead you safely to the harbour?"

Lady Rozelle taught these boys, all in long-term council care, the basics of seamanship, picnicking, camping, and relating to classes of persons a million miles removed from their background and far from street-credible. There is a treasured moment in her book, *The Tuesday Boys* (published this month by Thomas Lyster), when her friend and part-owner of the

boat, Ursula Jordan, first meets them. "What d'you reckon West 'Am's chances are, after what they done last Saturday?" enquired Peter, as Mrs Jordan tied up his lifejacket. "I really couldn't say," she replied. "I was at the theatre watching that superb new production of *Uncle Vanya*. Have any of you boys been to see it?" "Shall we get the sails up now?" interrupted the skipper, nervously. By the end of the afternoon, a comfortable understanding had been reached between all parties. By the end of the children's adolescence, they were a family.

*I knew nothing about children in care... I had always imagined they were horrid, vicious young hooligans'*

The venture began in 1975, when Lady Rozelle and Dick Raynes, her husband and the deputy medical officer of health for the borough of Newham, found themselves with, in effect, a spare yacht. The Martha McGilda, a 26ft Folkboat, had been Lady Rozelle's own boat for 19 years, and she could not bear to part with it unless to Noel Jordan, its original owner. However, Jordan died, so she, together with his widow, decided that what Martha McGilda needed was a job.

Dr Raynes's contact with the social services enabled them to make their offer to the Edith Moorey Home, which housed eight boys aged from nine to 13. The boat was moved to a run-down yacht marina in the Royal Albert Dock, and four at a time the boys spent Tuesday afternoons learning navigation and sailing. In

a dry, official report, the director of Newham Social Services talked of a "task-oriented" project and praised its effect on the boys' confidence. Lady Rozelle saw, and describes, merely the same wonder and happiness she herself found at sea. "Each boy steered in turn as we tacked down Gallion's Reach towards Barking power station... whenever a big ship passed us our helmsman would wave to the officer of the watch high up on his bridge; and when he received an answering wave his happiness was complete - one captain saluting another on the high seas! I remembered so vividly how it felt."

Her empathy with a child's wonder at the sea and ships is - together with a dogged faithfulness to Tuesday afternoons - the central reason why the relationship worked. Lady Rozelle is not, on the face of things, a natural social worker. Now a gentle, curiously girlish 65, she was middle-aged and childless when the project began, and, on her own admission, "quite hopeless at coping with naughty children or keeping them in order. I often get told off by serious-minded helpers for letting them get away with murder."

She spent sleepless nights before taking children to sea, convinced she would lose some overboard. But her personal history reveals an immovable conviction that the sea is the right place to find peace with oneself. As a child in a tall Victorian house in South Kensington (her father was Earl Manservants), she remembers how, "whenever some plaintive little foghorn called out in the night I would rush to the window in my long flannel nightdress and make desperate plans for running away to sea".

At 17 she joined the WRNS as a stoker, crewing a Liberty boat. "I loved every minute. When the war ended and the commanding officer gave his talk about how good Civvy Street would be, I burst into tears." She signed on as crew on a rather shady motor-yacht bound for the Mediterranean. Finally her



Sea-struck: as a child Lady Rozelle dreamed of maritime adventures; later she let the boys on her yacht get away with murder

mother decided, "the child must have a boat of her own to settle her down", and bought a leaky ship's lifeboat off the friend of a passing plumber. In this craft she had many adventures, alone and with other sea-struck Wrens: two days aground on the Maplin Sands in a gale, a broken rudder which she mended with a breadknife and a suspender-belt, and a spectacular stranding on Ostende beach from which she was rescued "by a very kind regiment of commandos".

In 1956 she bought Martha McGilda, a more seaworthy boat, and had more adventures. "I had a first marriage, you see, which is a long story, but I can just say that I did singlehanded voyages like my trip to Russia, mainly in order to get away from home." In the 1960s she met and married Dr Dick Raynes, and continued sailing with him.

When the Martha McGilda project began, she cheerfully admits, "I knew virtually nothing about children in care... I had always imagined they were horrid vicious young hooligans."

Hearing stories like that of Jeff, whose mother actively disliked him and who found his brother hanged, gave her a determination that Martha McGilda at least would never let them down. But the pleasure of reading her account is its realism: she does not gloss romantically over their social drawbacks, light-fingered tendencies and deplorable habit of verbal "Paki-bashing" from the back of her car as she drove them across London to the Boat Show.

But predominantly, the relationship was comradeship, the

middle-aged woman and the tough boys drawn together by the little old yacht. "Some of the boys," she admits, "really didn't much like going out sailing in strong winds. But they loved the homeliness of the cabin afterwards, and a feeling the boat was theirs." The boys grew up, the dock marina closed. The friendships continued, perpetuated in a youth club run by the Martha McGilda Trust.

Dr Raynes drove some boys to their weddings in his vintage car and bailed another out of prison. The couple have corresponded with others through marriages, parenthood, divorces, successive jobs, prison sentences and service in the Gulf war. Lady Rozelle can reel off their present jobs: one in the Merchant Navy, one driving a minicab, one "still a bit of a Walter Mitty" and only Jeff,

finally, a victim. Out of the children's home and sleeping rough at 17 in Brixton, he was murdered. The Rayneses and several of the Tuesday boys were at his funeral. More importantly, on a shelf just inside the companionway of Martha McGilda lies a crude, infinitely touching little painted boat Jeff made when he was ten. Fifteen years later, Lady Rozelle handles it as if it were made by a child of her own. "They were our children," she says. "All of them. I'm looking forward to taking their children sailing next."

What makes her happiest is what the boys said when a local newspaper asked them for their best memory. "Two of them burst out at once, 'Oh, we couldn't say. There was so many happy moments'. I had tears in my eyes."

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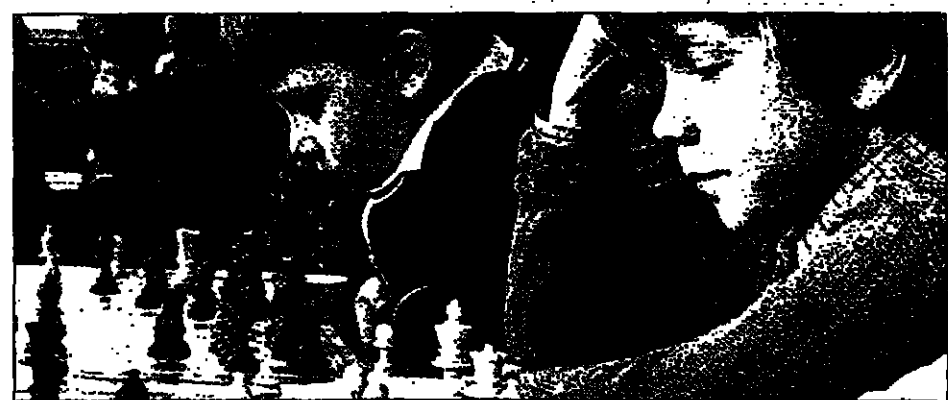
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## Games chess mothers play

A junior contest can be tough for supporters as well as competitors



Masters in the making: even the youngest players take their championship chess seriously

My son and I were recently put through our paces at the seventh Barbican Junior Chess Championship. He was playing in the under-eights; I was trying out a variety of gambits with other parents. As a rookie chess mother I am still learning the art of tournament conversation and trying to decide what kind of game I want to play.

The boy discovered the box of curious wooden figures one wet weekend just over a year ago and in a moment of madness I decided to teach him all I knew about chess - how to move the pieces. He loved the idea of opposing armies and soon discovered I was an unworthy and unwilling opponent, and I found him a chess club. When he came home with a leaflet about a tournament run by the club, I agreed that he could take part.

With hindsight I can see that the other parents must immediately have marked us down as nothing to worry about. To begin with, there were just the two of us. The really serious chess family goes mob-handed - mother and father with their clutch of chess-playing offspring, not to mention any younger siblings who are bound to join in as soon as they are tall enough to reach the pieces.

In addition, I was singularly ill equipped. No sandwiches (I had naively thought we might nip home for lunch), no crossword to occupy the empty moments between rounds, no travel chess set for inquests to spot the winning or losing moves. My son was also obviously a novice: he did not have his own score pad, let alone a tournament record book.

I was amazed to learn that people had travelled from East Anglia and Basingstoke so their children could play chess in this East Barnet primary school. Now I know they travel much further afield if the stakes are right. The significance of this event, which, of course, had completely escaped me, was that it was a qualifying tournament for the London Junior Chess Championships.

*Even at junior levels, it seems, warfare is not confined to the boards*

We did not qualify. But my child came away with a medal and the discovery that you could win cups and money. He was hooked.

The Barbican tournament was our fourth. We have both made progress. But as Pope observed, a little learning is a dangerous thing. It was probably better for both of us when the numbers by the competitors' names were meaningless, when the names themselves meant nothing. It can be tough, lying through your teeth to your child, that, yes, he does have a chance against young master X, when you know (because other parents have enlightened you) that he is the youngest member of a famous chess family and will probably massacre him in 17 moves.

My son came home from the Barbican with a leaflet about four more junior tournaments. I noted that however politely it is couched, some ban parents: "We regret that there is insufficient space for spectators to view the games in progress."

At the Barbican, one couple complained bitterly about the way other parents had behaved. There was talk of intimidation and of hissed advice. Even at junior levels, it seems, warfare is not confined to the boards.

Can I face another foray into this world where any conversation may turn into a defensive exchange or a discovered attack? Unless my son's enthusiasm wanes, I will continue to muster my forces. However, I have already made a note to take a folding chair to the Barnet Knights tournament next weekend. One thing I have learnt is that seats in primary schools were not made for adult bottoms.

LEE RODWELL

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THEATRE

# Love returns to the Court

Timberlake Wertenbaker's latest play is set in the world of fine art dealing. She talks to Matt Wolf about playing to the gallery

Of all the new writers whom the Royal Court has produced in recent years, few are as singular as the singularly named Timberlake Wertenbaker. The theatre's resident playwright in 1984-85, she co-wrote, with Yolande Bourcier, *Abel's Sister*, about a young Spanish woman, and returned to the Court for *The Grace of Mary Travers* (1985) and her thrilling *Our Country's Good* (1988). That last play elevated Wertenbaker at once from the busy ranks of Britain's fringe dramatists to consideration as one of the country's best. It transferred to the West End and, this past spring, to Broadway, where Wertenbaker — herself an Anglo-American raised in France — got her first taste of a commercial glare she was happy to leave behind. In English subsidised theatre, she says, it is the work (not the hype) that counts, so it is of particular interest that her new play, *Three Birds Alighting on a Field*, addresses exactly those issues in another cultural milieu: Britain's art world.

A glance at a portion of the finished script suggests that the art market is merely Wertenbaker's way in to a larger theme. Beginning at a frenzied auction, the play quickly leaves behind innuendo-filled references and inside jokes to deepen into a consideration of Englishness in matters both aesthetic and moral. The central character, Biddy, is a rich Englishwoman who turns to art collecting to find some value for her life, and the characters in her orbit include a British landscape artist, an American critic/consultant, and a Greek businessman/benefactor who presides over her search for an "interior life".

"It is not a play about the art world in terms of being an exposé in any sense, and it's not meant to be topical," Wertenbaker says. "I am not that kind of writer, and I did not set out to do that at all. It is a story about people falling in love — with painting, with England, with some-

body else. It is about what perception is, as well, and what exactly these people are falling in love with in the end."

All of which makes clear that Wertenbaker does not intend an art market equivalent to *Serious Money*, Caryl Churchill's hit about dirty dealings in the City. Tantalised by the story of Mark Rothko, the American abstract artist whose work was hotly contested after his suicide in 1970, Wertenbaker found herself widening her own canvas. "The art world tried to say his paintings were absolutely awful and valueless, and it just intrigued me, all of that. What is value in the end? We are in a society where nothing defines it for us. Most painters are actually very serious about what they are doing and that can be turned into something quite awful."

*Three Birds* marks Wertenbaker's first contemporary play since *Abel's Sister*, and both in her original work and in her ancillary career as a translator, the author remains best-known for treating historical subjects. *Mary Travers* was a theatrical picaresque set in the 18th century, and *Our Country's Good* told of the first Australian performance, in the 1780s, of Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer*. Work for the Royal Shakespeare Company includes *The Love of the Nightingale* and a forthcoming translation of Sophocles' *Theban*: *Oedipus the King*, *Oedipus at Colonus* and *Antigone*.

"I may have felt like writing a contemporary play," she says of *Three Birds* "I got sort of tired of setting things in the past." But she resists the notion that authors are best writing from direct experience: writing "what you know". "When people say that, they're assuming you know very little," Wertenbaker argues. "It is as if you cannot have the imagination to put your experience into something that's a little bit broader than your family. Why not? It is lovely to try to put another world on to the stage. That is the fun of it; really, to assemble a lot of characters and find out about them."



Timberlake Wertenbaker: born in New York, she prefers the working atmosphere of London

acters and find out about them."

In that sense, Wertenbaker is the authorial antithesis to someone such as Neil Simon. Whereas American drama often begins and ends with the family, she remains attracted to the social and historical context of much European work. "I use my experience in my plays a lot, but it is indirect," Wertenbaker says. Nor does she think her life is fodder for journalists, a feeling which she had difficulty conveying to eager scribes when she returned this season to the city where she was born, New York.

"I do not want to go back to New York. I do not want to have a play on in New York; it is on that level,"

she says. "You have to try to seduce New York, and if you do not try, you are not playing the game. What counts is New York and *The New York Times* in every sense, not just the Frank Rich review."

On the topic of her work, however, Wertenbaker warms quickly to discussion, punctuating her comments with laughter and self-deprecation. She has had "a hard six to nine months", coupling *Three Birds* rewrites and rehearsals with completion of *The Theban*, her first RSC translation since Ariane Mnouchkine's *Mephisto* in 1986. "I was overbooked, really," she says, recalling Adrian Noble's offer to

take on the Sophocles, "but I felt I just had to do it. What I wanted to do was sit there looking up words in a dictionary, because the discipline of his language is just so different."

The appeal of translation, she says, lies in "the craft of it in seeing this language and turning it into that language, and that is very rewarding. It is a different part of your mind and work; the next best thing to acting a play; you get a familiarity with the playwright, which for a playwright is very instructive."

● *Three Birds Alighting on a Field* previews tonight at the Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 (071-730 1745) and opens tomorrow.

CLASSICAL MUSIC: MOZART NOW

## Liberties taken with due care

Paul Griffiths on some improvisatory surprises during the bicentenary celebrations on the South Bank

Our cheese-paring ways of concert giving, with no more than one soloist engaged and the whole thing over inside two hours, can normally give no flavour of the ample, multifarious programmes of two centuries ago. But the South Bank's Mozart Now festival offered an ear into the past in this respect as in so much else. Two concerts last week, roughly reconstructing the programmes Mozart gave in Leipzig in 1789 and Frankfurt the next year, each duly presented a banquet of symphonies, piano concerto and arias lasting for nearer three hours than two, and the Leipzig night even brought, from Robert Levin, a revival of Mozartian skills of improvisation. For once one could share the assurance, which Mozart's audiences would never have had reason to doubt, that one was hearing new music (from which point of view a Berio concert with the London Sinfonietta is a closer representation of 18th-century practice than any amount of gut-string fiddling).

Levin's announcement that his cadenzas for K503 would be completely impromptu came over as a touch cocky, and a dubious departure from authentic practice, since Mozart seems always to have played from written-out cadenzas. No doubt, too, if Levin had pre-arranged things he could have avoided long runs of conventional patterns, however adroitly dispatched. But his spontaneous solo fantasy on four themes was great fun, right from his good-humoured choosing from a basket of vaguely Mozartian ideas scribbled by members of the audience (although the best was the invention of the orchestra's principal viola player) to the brilliant, inventive and amusing thing itself.

Levin's keyboard style — erect, sprightly and extrovert — was in complete contrast with Melvyn Tan's poeticism only a few days before, and again with Malcolm Bilson's unassuming gentleness a couple of days later. There is certainly no danger that the period-instrument movement is aiming towards a cramping orthodoxy: a welcome message vigorously endorsed by the shuffle of so many quite different orchestras across the stage of the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

The Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, arriving to join their conductor Frans Brüggen for these two concerts, showed off a beautifully, even sensuously blended woodwind ensemble, especially in the singing of Aloysia Lange, who was still only in her early twenties when he wrote these arias for her. Sieden sounds young; she also contrives to project the virtuosic high notes, warblings and leaps of Mozart's Aloysia style without strain, and at the same time to convey the expressive character he admired in his favourite singer. "Vorrei spiegarvi" was a nobly plaintive withdrawal. "No, che non sei capace" a fierce, scorched repudiation.

In this same concert Luba Orgonova offered a contrastingly majestic sound, but agile in movement, for the Andromeda scene "Ah, lo previdi", and then joined Sieden in an astounding performance of the duet from Act II of *Mitridate*, ending with rippling flourishes of vocal brilliance and confidence from both singers. Different again — and gorgeous in every note, intelligent in every phrase — Diana Montague distinguished the earlier evening with perfection in the two grandest soprano concert arias of Mozart's Vienna years, "Ch'io mi scordi di te?" and "Bella mia fiamma".



Robert Levin: sprightly and skilful pianist

TELEVISION: PREVIEW

## Filmed under fire from the victors' viewpoint

Hollywood versions of the Vietnam war are widely shown, but films made by the communist side are less well known. Richard Johnson previews a Channel 4 season

The history of war is never written by the vanquished — unless they happen to be American. Thanks to Hollywood, the whole world now knows what the jungles of Vietnam look like from the cockpit of a US Army attack helicopter. But from tonight, Channel 4 presents *Vietnam Cinema*, a film season showing the country's post-1945 experiences from a Vietnamese perspective.

In the past 40 years, as foreign minister Nguyen Co Thach is fond of reminding visitors, four of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have invaded Vietnam. Resistance is everywhere. Every city has streets named after national heroes: Le Loi, Tran Hung Dao. Ho Chi Minh can boast his own city: it is not surprising that Vietnamese cinema should be obsessed with war.

Most of today's Vietnamese film makers began their years in the army, charting the wars against America and France. The fighting lasted for more than 30 years, and ten million Vietnamese were killed — 138 of whom were cinema workers. The films (often hand processed in wooden tubs, and sewn together with needle and thread) were screened for audiences in

their underground shelters. The 1971 film *Vinh Linh Steel Ramparts* tells the story of an attack on the 17th Parallel that was launched and shelved constantly for four years by the United States. Director Ngoc Chyng spent more than a year filming 70,000 people living underground, using magnesium from flares to light scenes in the tunnels. After shooting was finished, three of his crew were killed as they returned to Hanoi with

5,000 metres of film — Ngoc Chyng stayed until he had reshot it all. Plot summaries of narrative Vietnamese films can read like Maoist pantomimes. *The Orange Peel* stars an officer who volunteers for defoliant duty, only to have his wife give birth to a monster and die of poisoning; while *First Love* introduces us to the evil American adviser and running dog of capitalism who kidnaps children to sell in America.



In the field: soldiers of the North Vietnamese army guard a cameraman filming during the war

But Vietnam's ruling communist party wanted to make the country's cinema accessible to peasant and intellectual alike by using bold, simple strokes. And the surprise is that the resultant films manage greys, as well as blacks and whites. Tony Rayns, presenter of the season and an expert on south-east Asian cinema, classes two — *Girl on the River* and *Wild Field* — as "outstanding".

Dang Nhat Minh's *Girl On The River* (1987), tells the story of a prostitute who falls in love with a wounded communist soldier and hides him from nationalist troops. After the war, under a communist government, she is sent to re-education camp — but the soldier, now a party official, does not want to know her. Nguyen Hong Sen's *The Wild Field* is the story of a family living around the waterlogged plains of the Mekong Delta during the war. Made in 1979, the same year as Francis Ford Coppola released *Apocalypse Now*, some scenes amount to a training manual in guerrilla warfare. The film turns Hollywood

tradition on its head by showing what US Army helicopter raids looked and felt like from the ground. American cinema rarely shows Vietnamese suffering. As the critic Peter Martin wrote about *The Deer Hunter*: "Innocent Americans became the war's only victims, and the Vietnamese — in reality an agrarian, village people — became the big city villains, smiling devils, gamblers, pimps and whores."

And while tales from Hollywood traditionally centre on the grunts, Vietnamese films look at the impact of war on non-combatants — who held

their lives together while fathers, sons and spouses and lovers were killed. One of the few common themes is that of the returning veteran. The vet (star of *Taxi Driver*, *Coming Home*, *The Exterminator*, *Birdy* and *First Blood*) also stars in Tran Vu's 1988 film, *Brothers and Relations*. Communist party subsidies for the film industry have now all but disappeared and young people in Hanoi prefer to go to the nearest coffee shop to watch videos from Hong Kong or America for the price of a drink. It probably makes *Rambo* easier to swallow.

● The season begins at 11pm tonight with the documentary *Vinh Linh Steel Rampart*.

TELEVISION: REVIEW

## Tense romance and a sticky end

If the word "romance" carries associations of twaddle in pink ribbon, last night's excellent *Tell Me That You Love Me* (BBC 1) set the matter in quite a different light. Romance can be powerful, exhausting, frightening, saying "I love you" when you are accustomed to saying "I don't want to get hurt" is a step, blindfold, into the abyss. Adrian Hodges's clever script (well directed by Bruce MacDonald, and beautifully acted)

tapped straight into the mains of modern solipsistic romantic desires. Tell me that you love me; it makes me feel so good, about myself.

Hodges took the theme "No one has ever loved anyone the way everyone wants to be loved", and posited a simple "All right then, what if...?" What if a man — a stranger — materialised from nowhere, heroic but respectful, always surprising in his gestures (turning up at your office in the late evening with fish supper for two) yet somehow knowing precisely what will please you? What if he starts saying, "I am absolutely serious, we are two halves of the same soul"? Would you say, "Hey, lover, don't stop"? Or would you feel smothered, manipulated, suspicious?

If it sounds soppy, it was not. *Tell Me That You Love Me* was produced by Sarah Curtis (who made the horrifyingly authentic *News Hounds*), and it took place slap-bang in the real world. Any romantic cliché assailed mostly in the audience's mind, making us

see events in a misleading light. Laura (Judith Scott) is an editor on a women's magazine who has been shocked and hurt by the chronic philandering of ex-boyfriend Michael (James Wilby). So when the new man, Gabriel (Sean Bean), turns up professing eternal love — and when Laura is coaxed towards professing love in return — one's automatic fear is simply that she will be hurt again, because Gabriel is surely either a liar or a fruitcake.

The piece was billed as a thriller, yet Sean Bean's level, ambiguous performance kept the whole thing walking on a razor's edge between threat and promise. Was this man simply a menace, or a tragic, lovesick Troilus deserving pity? Was he a dream or a nightmare? Only at the end, when (in an agony of rejection) he turned up at Laura's pitch-dark flat armed with a large gleaming knife, did the two possibilities seem to merge: oh good heavens, he's going to do her in. But of course this proved to be the

biggest mistake of all. When Laura refused to say she loved him — apparently at peril of her life — the scene climaxed with him turning the knife on himself. Gabriel was neither a dream nor a nightmare, after all; he was a person in his own right, whose real life-blood was pouring on to the carpet. "I sometimes feel I invented him; I wanted him so much," was what Laura confessed, blushing. But what became obvious was that she was quite mistaken: she did not want him at all. She wanted someone who would merely say the swoony things and behave as though they were true; who would love her unreservedly, but with the sense not to phone during a meeting; who would take on the burden of her romantic needs without lumbering her with his own. This was love in our time, all right. And if there was a tragic story, it belonged to Gabriel, not Laura. Hodges must be a damned wise fellow when it comes to affairs of the heart.

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# Pulling opposite ways in the Limehouse fog

Peter Riddell believes the Liberal Democrats owe more to David Owen than to Roy Jenkins

Paddy Ashdown is now leading the Liberal Democrats in the direction that David Owen would have done if he had been a better party man. Seeing Mr Ashdown in action last week, I was reminded of Dr Owen at the height of his influence in the mid-1980s. Many of the "hard-edged" policies Dr Owen advocated then, with the important exception of his doubts about European union, will be the basis of this week's debates at the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth.

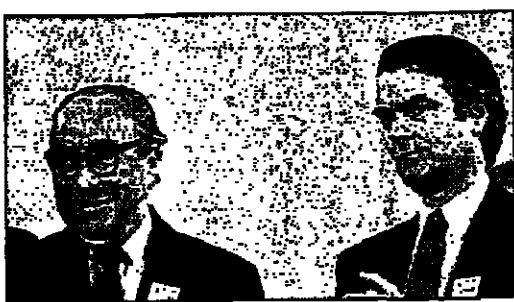
The irony of his continuing influence may be lost on Dr Owen as he contemplates a future outside the Commons and launches his 811-page autobiography (more than 15 pages per year of his life). The battle of the memoirs between Dr Owen and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (8.8 pages per year) over who was responsible for the SDP shipwreck has tarnished the reputa-

tion of both. Their mutual suspicion makes it surprising not that the SDP broke apart but that it stayed together so long. In the end, the SDP foundered electorally not because of divisions over the Liberals and merger, but because of the resilience of Labour and the squeeze applied to any third grouping in a first-past-the-post electoral system. Everything else is a footnote.

Yet the impact of both men goes well beyond the squabbles of the second half of the 1980s, as their books suggest. Even the titles are revealing, and characteristic: Roy Jenkins with his somewhat complacent *A Life at the Centre* and David Owen with his defiant *Time to Declare*. Lord Jenkins has written what should be the classic memoir of the post-war social

democratic establishment, as commanding as Denis Healey's, but more elegantly written and less evasive. The Jenkins style is a fine example of the English baroque of Anthony Powell. His memoir is to be savoured. Dr Owen prefers the sparse prose of a clinician. Its effect is more bracing.

At the end of his remarkably frank book Lord Jenkins asks whether he is an establishment whig or a persistent radical. He attempts to portray himself as a radical, "somewhat to the left of James Callaghan, maybe of Denis Healey and certainly of David Owen". Lord Jenkins has solid credentials as a libertarian,



Divided they stood: Jenkins and Owen

but at heart he is an establishment whig, revering existing institutions at times to the point of snobbery. By contrast, Dr Owen has delighted in being a self-conscious outsider, not part of the clubby world.

These differences affected their attitudes towards Margaret Thatcher. Lord Jenkins had a pronounced distaste for Thatcherism. He had reservations about the enterprise culture, the wisdom of the market and privatisation. Dr Owen recognised that Mrs Thatcher had changed the agenda of British politics and that other parties would have to adjust. In his most creative phase in 1983-85, he developed ideas on the social market dubbed Thatcherism with a human face - "right on the market and left on social policy" in his own words.

Mr Ashdown has also sought to challenge the conventional approach, both in style and substance. In an echo of Dr Owen, he

called last week for anti-trust legislation and the break-up of British Telecom. Policies rejected by many Liberals only a few years ago are now being accepted with scarcely a murmur. Part of the reason is the disappearance of both Mrs Thatcher and Dr Owen. In the mid-1980s the association of any policy with either of these bogey figures was enough to condemn the proposal in the eyes of many Liberals. Now, there are no such inhibitions. Mr Ashdown himself has a freer hand as leader since he has the respect and trust of his own party in a way David Steel, for example, never did.

Dr Owen had the chance to be in Mr Ashdown's shoes and have a continuing influence on British politics. He blew it in the battles over nuclear defence policy before

the 1987 general election and over merger afterwards. On merger, Dr Owen was wrong and Lord Jenkins was right; there was no room for separate third and fourth parties in the British system. But even if Dr Owen had been willing to compromise, his personality has always chafed at the constraints of party. Moreover, his opposition to a United States of Europe puts him nearer Mrs Thatcher than to the Euro-federalism of the Liberal Democrats. Dr Owen himself says that was a reason why he never felt it possible to join, let alone attempt to lead, the Liberal Democrats.

In Bournemouth this week, the Liberal Democrats will celebrate the contribution of Lord Jenkins to centre politics. But they should not gloat over the demise of Mr Owen. They, and particularly Mr Ashdown, owe him more than either would publicly admit.

## Heseltine takes charge

Douglas Broom on the creeping central control of local government

Tiles falling off your council house in, say, Macclesfield or Middlesbrough? Waste no time with the local council. Much better to go straight to Marsham Street, the much reviled Thames-side headquarters of the Department of the Environment, for there, increasingly, the power lies.

The government signalled a change in its relationship with local authorities in February with its Estate Action programme, under which councils compete for permission to borrow up to £270 million a year to improve run-down housing estates. In May Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, announced the City Challenge programme, under which councils bid against each other for a share of £82.5 million in inner-city grants.

The process has been taken further with the announcement that from next April two-thirds of a £1.5 billion annual Housing Investment Programme will be distributed on the basis of bids by councils. In theory the programme has included a bidding process for many years, but rigid formulas governed the amount councils could seek. From April there will be fewer rules, and ministers will award permission to borrow on the basis of the quality of individual projects submitted.

Put simply, this means that councils will not be able to carry out large-scale housing repairs or improvements unless ministers like the look of what they propose. By requiring local authorities to bid for most of the money they spend on housing the government has extended detailed ministerial control to mainstream council spending for the first time. The bids so far are not for handouts, but for permission to borrow money on which the councils will have to pay interest. But the process is likely to spread. Mr Heseltine has privately made it clear that he is thinking of extending competitive bidding to the distribution of government block grants.

Where does all this leave local democracy, the ability of the public to influence the actions of

their local authority? Council-tenant groups have been quick to argue that the change in housing controls will undermine attempts by the government to involve them in the running of their estates. What point is there in working with councils on improvement schemes, they ask, if ministers can then refuse permission for them?

The argument cuts little ice with Mr Heseltine, who believes that improvement in public housing has long been frustrated by the failure of councils to come up with schemes that work. By forcing them to compete for the means to carry out housing improvement schemes he believes he can focus attention on the performance of individual councils, and that by giving money to the best he will force the worst to improve.

The principle is enshrined in John Major's Citizen's Charter, in which the government has made plain its view that local councils are there to deliver services to a standard set by central government. Failure to achieve those standards will lead to penalties. The citizen will therefore influence local government by complaining rather than voting.

By extending its powers to vet the details of council projects the government will further diminish the power of the ballot box in local affairs. Some argue that local elections, with their often feebly low voter turnout, have already ceased to have significance, but they are still a link, no matter how tenuous, between the voter and his local council. The voters' weapon of last resort is always there, even if it is not used.

The idea that a system of complaints and government enforcement is superior to an imperfect local electoral system is unproved. The tendency of the system will be for inadequacies to continue in modified form, the proffered solution being further movement to central control. The final act could be a system whose faults closely resemble those of local government at its worst, but writ large, in Whitehall.

Bernard Levin asks why mankind should rush to preserve birds, elephants or trees

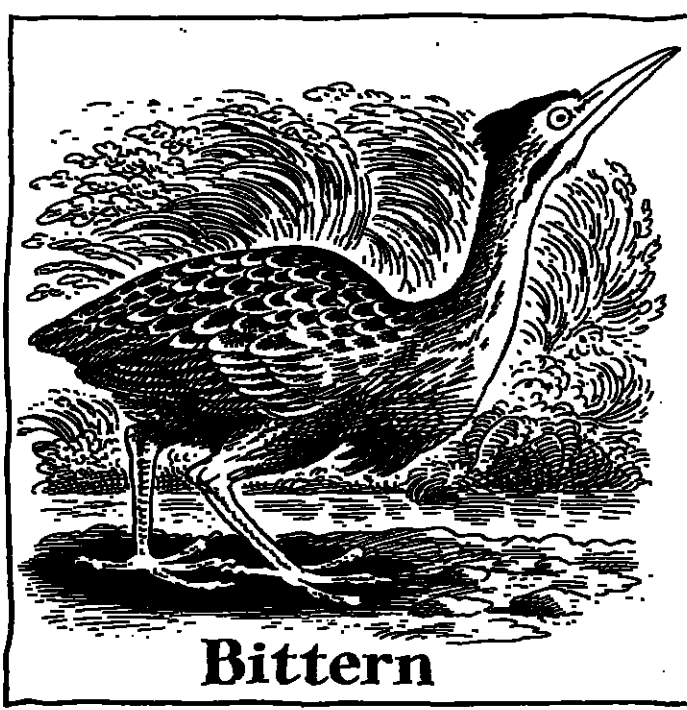
## Those dodos were dead right

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is rapidly getting itself a bad name. *The Spectator* has recently published a scathing account of its saving and bullying. (It would no doubt claim that its methods are essential if it is to do its job of protecting birds; I wonder whether any member of the executive has heard of Madame Roland.)

Its latest appearance on the public scene is of a different kind; it seems that the society had miscounted the number of pairs of bitterns living in this country. Where they reported 60 such pairs, the true figure was 16. Though not germane to the argument I shall put forward, I must draw attention to what the society claims was the reason for the mistake. "The scientists were taking the census by going from site to site recording the mating call of the male bird because we could not get an accurate visual count in the reeds of the bittern's natural habitat. We thought that this was giving us a true picture, but we did not realise at the time that the male bitterns were also moving from site to site and we were counting the same birds more than once."

Well, if you were a bittern, or a bittern's mate, or even a bittern's egg, wouldn't you be "moving from site to site" as fast as your wings could carry you, to get away from the RSPB's scientists, after being chased out of "the reeds of the bittern's natural habitat" by these interfering pests poking their snouts into your nest? But that is not the burden of my song today. I have a question to ask, thus: never mind if there are 60 pairs of bitterns in Britain, or only 16 pairs, or 666 - why would it matter if there were no bitterns at all, anywhere in the world? Or alligators. Or black widow spiders. Or jellyfish.

I can hear the spluttering from miles away, but so far I cannot hear an answer. While I am waiting for one, let me raise the stakes. There has been chatter lately about elephants, particularly when the annual call of these beasts began. They were culled, I should point out, not by ivory rustlers or even hungry African peasants, but in order to bring down their numbers from a level which would, given the poor grazing, put them all at risk of



Bittern

starvation and extinction, but that did not silence the chatter.

I asked this question, in a different form, a year ago, and got no answer deserving of the term. Let me now be even more anthropocentric than I was then. Elephants are very remarkable creatures, not just huge and powerful but - of course in a limited form - intelligent. They are not clever enough to avoid being captured, or to refuse being trained and used as beasts of burden, but they seem to have a low form of ratiocination (low, that is, compared with the human intellect, though high in the animal world). Now suppose that those hungry African peasants I referred to in passing would remain hungry indefinitely unless they ate the elephants - ate so many, indeed, that the beasts were unable to reproduce themselves in sufficient numbers and eventually vanished. Having supposed as much, where do you stand?

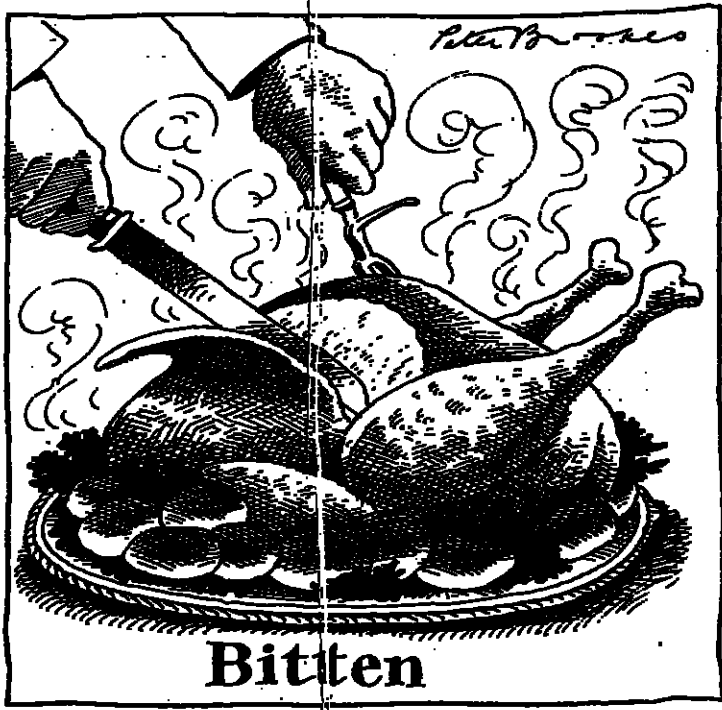
I stand with the peasants and their empty bellies. I do not know why evolution or God chose mankind to be superior to all the rest of creation, but for all the mightiness of beauty or interest that many species have, no animal has yet aspired to independent creation: beavers build dams which are of help to them, and

bees were making honey for themselves long before they were domesticated, but neither the beavers nor the bees can understand what they are doing.

No animal or bird or fish or insect, independently of its genetic constitution, is capable of art or manufacture, laughter or imagination, pride or shame, envy or murder. More, no creature lower than man can understand what any of these are. Indeed, no lower creature knows what it itself is, or can know.

Some animals, for instance dolphins, can apparently understand the concept of purpose, no doubt in a rudimentary manner; it may be that a dolphin knows that it is pleasing its human audience with its capers, and perhaps a seal can do the same. Many domestic animals recognise their owners, though I was astonished, even indignant, when I learnt from a horse-riding friend that her familiar mount did not know her.

I am not making a plea for the extermination of the animal kingdom. The Buddhists revere all sentient life, and would not knowingly step on a cockroach; nor would I, but only because I am a creepycrawlyphobe to such an extent that I could not go near enough to it to tread on it, and



Bitten

even if I could my foot would refuse to lift itself for the action. Still, if someone produced a device which would kill all the cockroaches in the world overnight I would be the first to applaud.

Who would be the last? Whoever he is, he is a great nuisance, and he is becoming a worse one every day. Yet the profligacy of nature is never rebuked; the dinosaurs constitute the most extreme form of waste (a hundred million years they ruled the earth, and then they vanished), but I assure you that countless species less spectacular than they have come and gone; the dodo was certainly not alone.

It is getting worse; now it is the turn of the trees. I know that there are many ancient and beautiful legends about trees, one of the most familiar being Daphne turning into a laurel, and an ancient and handsome tree is a noble sight; but now we must not even cut them down, lest they be used for firewood and thus worsen the "greenhouse effect", for the existence of which I have never seen any serious evidence.

How beautiful is a bittern? "Ho!" cries the man who wouldn't hurt a cockroach, "this is elitism! plain birds may be cooked and eaten, while peacocks strut their lawn and peer in at the kitchen."

Well, and so it should be, say I; the time, energy and money invested in protecting some useless bird, just because it is rare, could be spent a thousand times over in a thousand useful ways, one of them being the encouragement - you note that I do not say protection - of truly beautiful birds.

There is another fallacy in the protection argument: nature herself is not only red in tooth and claw, but she attacks the weak and hastens the extinction of the shrinking species; the indigenous ant, which has lived here for many generations, has all but died out under the assault of a larger, more ruthless ant which arrived in Britain only a few years ago. Who will speak up for our British ant, harried by a pack of swarthy foreign ones?

I still do not know whether a bittern is beautiful, or whether it tastes nice, spit-roasted with a rasher of bacon wrapped across its chest. For that matter, I do not know whether the bittern is a vicious brute which lives on the eggs of meeker breeds, and the worst thing I know about the people who insist that we should be compelled to have a licence to sneeze, in case we kill a germ, is that they don't care how many goldfinches the bitterns kill and eat. Rarity is all!

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

Bishop Berkeley is widely (if inaccurately) thought to have concluded that while you are not looking at something it does not exist. If I shut my eyes for a moment and cease to see the lilac tree in front of me, how can I know that it is not there? All I know is that, by the time I open my eyes, it has returned.

I go further than Berkeley. I hold that if the news media cease to report a phenomenon then that, too, ceases to exist.

What has happened, for instance, to global warming? A glorious August, followed by a promising September, ought to have had the doomsday pundits swarming all over our screen and newspapers full of dire predictions. But no. Nothing. Global warming is gone. Stashed away like a once-favourite toy in some back cupboard, along with global cooling, giant killer-bees, glue sniffing and the invasion of crack. The media made them. Now the media have thought better of it. Creatures of the imagination, like the baseless fabric of Prospero's vision, "the cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces" dissolve.

This summer, then, has been significant for what has not happened. Just as we were gearing ourselves up for the silly season, Russia erupted.

It was a shame. July had been looking good. Swarms of ladybirds had been reported on south coast beaches. Hundreds of prominent people were going to be "outed" - or not, as the case

may be. BBC Radio 1 was wondering which records to ban and Mount Pinatubo was belching flames. Forest fires, no doubt, were beginning to burn all over the south of France and Spain, trapping British holiday-makers. Back home, we were due for an outbreak of salmonella in the heat. This would have jogged our memories about spongy brain disease in cows.

Then - wham! - the Moscow coup, and the silly season flew out of the window. A hundred gaily coloured balloons were spiked, and now hang limp, as shrivelled memories of what summer on Fleet Street used to be like.

Whether or not the facts upon which these stories were based have gone away, too, depends upon whether you think they were ever there in the first place. It is true that this summer our globe has been warm, but there has not, it seems, been global warming. And there has not been a drought.

Odd about the drought. It doesn't seem to me to have rained in Derbyshire for an awful long time, and I notice that the spring which forms my water source is down to a trickle. Hopeless bans are in force all over the country, as usual in summer. But no protests, no angry scenes with water board chairmen - no drought. There can't be. It hasn't been in the newspapers.

BCCI canters along as an international issue, but as a British political scandal it ap-

pears to have been cancelled. My parting recollection of parliament was of mayhem as Mr Major told Mr Kinnoch that if the latter were calling him a liar he'd better say so plainly. Neither of them seems to have mentioned this since. Just a tiff, then, was it?

Europe has completely disappeared. Three months ago it was unwise to accept a dinner-party invitation unless one were in confident possession of at least one opinion about monetary union. No day passed in which we did not think about M Delors at least twice before breakfast. Now... well, who cares? Nothing stands in the way of a news report that experts have revealed this August to have been the first since 1953 (or whenever) when the northern hemisphere has gone entirely without a silly season.

Ordinary people like you and me may think we can see things independently of newspapers and *The Nine O'Clock News*, but this is a delusion. Once the reports cease, the phenomenon must fade too. What fools you is the time-lag. We see an after-image - as when you shut your eyes after staring at some bright object, or as when a flying spark drags a luminous line across the darkness. The image persists a while, seemingly independent, yet in fact drawing its life from what has gone before the reports. And the reports of reports.

Snuff out the news of the news, and the news has gone.

## Gang of three

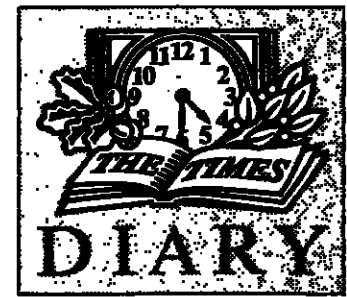
WHAT links David Owen, Tom Driberg and Roy Jenkins? At last the sensational story can be told. As daily revelations pour out about the inner workings of the KGB, the British government still does not officially acknowledge the existence of M16. But that convention might have ended more than a decade ago if James Callaghan had had his way, according to Owen's memoirs.

Callaghan apparently sent a memo round Whitehall advocating the change. But Sir Maurice Oldfield, then head of M16, produced compelling arguments for continuing the convention on the grounds that once M16 was acknowledged there would be a constant attempt to make ministers answerable and a progressive erosion of the service. So the fiction has continued.

Owen says Oldfield impressed him - he subscribes to the view that he was the model for John Le Carré's George Smiley - but he now admits to having been stunned by the revelation that Oldfield had lied in his positive vetting about his homosexual activities, a fact that might have influenced his desire for secrecy.

Owen says he had no idea that Oldfield knew the MP Tom Driberg. "Had I done so," he confesses, "I might have been alerted because Tom Driberg was a florid homosexual."

Owen might have been even more worried had he known that Driberg had been part of a canasta school that flourished 40 years ago in the vaults of the Commons, despite the rules of the House against card games. Its other members included John Freeman, Woodrow Wyatt, Tony Crosland and Roy Jenkins.



While much critical ink was split about the Benetton advert of a newborn baby, an Economist ad has been literally attacked in London. To celebrate the magazine's fly-on-the-wall coverage, the agency Abbott Mead Vickers produced a red poster with a 2ft plastic fly bolted on. Since the posters went up 29 flies have been stolen.

## Godot misses bus

SAMUEL BECKETT would be saddened to learn that an experimental production of his work to which he gave his blessing shortly before his death has been denied performing rights. *Journeys* combines Japanese theatre with extracts from Beckett's work and was to have been performed as

No theatre for Beckett?



part of the London International Theatre Symposium. Now only the Japanese segments will be performed. "It's a shame," says the company, Workshop 5. "Beckett approved of the play when we sent him the script in October, 1989. He granted us permission and wished us good luck."

Chris Brown, the agent for Beckett's estate, have refused performing permission on the ground that it has sold exclusive rights to *Waiting for Godot*, from which some of the new production was to come, to a West End production company. The author's wishes, it seems, count for nothing once he is dead.

The French actor Gerard Depardieu has sent his apologies for absence from a party next month to celebrate publication of his biography by Marianne Gray. He has, however, ensured that guests will still toast his health in style. He has sent four dozen bottles of the finest red from his own vineyard in Anjou.

## Unperson No 1

THE SPEED of change in the Soviet Union has caused a little local embarrassment to Professor Paul Cook, president of the British Science and Technical Trust. He was on the shortlist for next year's Lenin Peace Prize for his work with handicapped children in Soviet hospitals and in Beirut.

Cook, sensing the world has moved far in the past few weeks, now says he will only be happy to accept the award if its name is changed to the Three Martyrs Award in memory of the men who died in Moscow during the upheavals.

Cook was particularly upset at the prospect of being presented with a portrait of Lenin along with the medal and his £50,000 award money. "We feel that the name

Lenin is inappropriate, especially as his tomb might now be dismantled anyway. Of course we'd love the award but we are asking for the name to be changed first. Is that too much to ask?" The Russians presumably have been thinking along similar lines.

## Hopeless

WANTED: a slogan for the government's £10 million energy conservation campaign to be launched next month. Michael Heseltine's environment department was delighted with the slogan that the admen at Collett Dickinson Pearce produced - Hope. The letters stand both for Help Our Planet Earth and Husband Our Precious Energy. Very clever, said the environment secretary. Too clever by half, said John Wakeham, the energy secretary. Nobody understands it, especially the bit about "husband", his officials have told their co-sponsors at environment. The admen have been sent back to the drawing board but time is running short. The campaign is due to be launched before the party conference next month.

The mention in this column last week of Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, still working after her 100th birthday, prompts an old friend to recall an incident when the actress met George VI and family on a state visit to South Africa after the second world war. Realising that her full-length gloves were inappropriate for what was meant to be an informal occasion, Miss Ffrangcon-Davies stuffed them behind a cushion. Minutes later the Queen Mother, as she now is, took the seat. Feeling a lump in her back she rummaged behind the cushion and pulled out the gloves. "Oh, here they are," she said, turning to the king. Miss Ffrangcon-Davies never saw her gloves again.





## A BALKAN COMMUNITY

The disintegration of Yugoslavia continues. The opening session of the peace conference in the Hague at the weekend produced little more than an exchange of insults between the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, and his Serbian counterpart, Slobodan Milosevic. Yesterday the Croatian chairman of the rotating federal presidency, Stipe Mesic, ordered the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army back to barracks. The high command seems to have ignored him, as it has done ever since Slovenia and Croatia declared independence more than two months ago. As long as the army defies its constitutional masters — Mr Mesic speaks with some justice of a "coup" — the federal authority which matters most in Yugoslavia will be the military one.

Most significantly, perhaps, the southern republic of Macedonia yesterday joined Slovenia and Croatia by voting for independence in a referendum. The Macedonians thereby gave notice that they do not wish to remain within a Yugoslavia which, minus Slovenia and Croatia, would be even more dominated by the communist-led republic of Serbia than in the past.

Reports from the front line are confused, but the heavy civilian casualties in Osijek and elsewhere in Croatia make it clear that the European Community's condition for convening the Hague conference, a ceasefire policed by EC monitors, has not been met. That is all the more reason to press ahead. Lord Carrington, its chairman, may be right to say that neither Serbs nor Croats are "capable of looking dispassionately or objectively at what is happening". But to wait for a ceasefire to hold would in effect tell Yugoslavs — most of whom want peace — that Europe has washed its hands of them.

There is no hope of stopping or even containing this civil war until the prizes to be won from talking exceed the gains from fighting. The parties involved have repeatedly tried to begin negotiations on a political solution. Their failures reveal the extent to which dialogue has broken down. Lord Carrington's near-impossible task is to throw the EC's weight behind a framework which all republics can accept, and work from there towards peace.

This is a long shot, but must be attempted. One thing likely to derail it would be premature Western recognition of the

declarations of independence by Slovenia and Croatia. The Germans contend that both republics have made a clear act of self-determination and that the threat of western recognition for Croatia could deter Serbia from continuing to wage war. Germany's desire to resist Serbia's tactics is understandable. Serbian forces have taken the offensive, and their territorial ambition is as manifest as their contempt for ceasefires.

For external powers to back secessionist movements in the middle of civil war is the most drastic form of intervention. It might have the opposite effect to that intended. Croatia's leaders might regard international recognition now as relieving them of any pressure to negotiate with Serbia. The war in Croatia could intensify or even spill over into Bosnia-Herzegovina, home to Muslims, Serbs and Croats. Recognition would deprive the EC of the status of a neutral arbiter. Moreover, Hungary, Greece, Bulgaria and Albania all have potential territorial claims against Yugoslav republics, and their minorities are beginning to be caught up in the fighting. The West should not help to extend Croatia's agony to the rest of Yugoslavia.

Lord Carrington may need to come up with his own blueprint as a basis for negotiation, because internal negotiations have been running on tracks which will never coincide. Federation and confederation are both unacceptable. A new model is needed. The European Community, ironically in view of its federalist tendencies, has many admirers in Yugoslavia. The conference should work towards a Balkan community of sovereign republics.

The basis for such a settlement is that the republics' frontiers must not be changed by force, but that minorities should feel secure. Since every republic except Slovenia is an ethnic patchwork, that implies solid guarantees by each republic of the rights of all nationalities within it. The prize would be external recognition of each republic's sovereignty within the Balkan community.

Agreement, even in principle, on such a plan has been made far more difficult by the carnage, as Mr Tudjman said yesterday. But Yugoslavia's ethnic geography requires some pragmatic dilution of the principle of self-determination, while respecting existing borders. That is Lord Carrington's task, and nothing should distract him from it.

## FENDING OFF THE BAILIFF

By the end of 1991 building societies and banks will have repossessed some 100,000 homes from owners who failed to keep up their mortgage payments. Because the consequences of repossession can be devastating, Britain offers its citizens protection against the loss of a home. The state provides financial subsidies to jobless homeowners, at a cost now running at some £700 million annually. Their entire mortgage interest is added to their unemployment benefits after they have been out of work for 16 weeks. But the tide of repossessions keeps rising.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has suggested that the government should put £400 million into a special fund to buy homes facing repossession and rent them to their present owners. Others argue that full interest payments should be extended to the first 16 weeks of unemployment.

The answer to both these proposals should be a resounding "no". Despite their misfortunes, homeowners facing repossession are rarely the poorest of the poor. Moreover, they decided to borrow, knowing the perils. If more money is available to spend on social security or low-cost housing, bailing out homeowners — let alone building societies — should have a low priority.

However, two practical measures could be enacted quickly to help building societies and borrowers alike, without further public expenditure. The method of paying social security benefits to unemployed homeowners should be revised. At present the housing component is included in the total benefit, allowing claimants to spend the money allocated for interest payments on anything they wish. Since mortgage interest often makes up over half of the total benefit, people in financial straits are often tempted to spend this money on something else. Failure to forward payments to the creditor

is the most important cause of repossessions among the long-term unemployed.

The mortgage industry wants the Department of Social Security to pay interest direct to lenders. Officials have argued that dangerous precedents would be created by letting lenders intrude on what is supposed to be a confidential relationship between the claimant and the social security office. This argument is unpersuasive when applied to a benefit intended specifically to be passed on to the claimant's building society. For the claimant not to pay this mortgage element to his lender is not merely imprudent, but it defeats the object of the social security laws. A claimant who does not wish to have his interest directly paid to the mortgagee is free to forgo this part of his claim.

To make even bigger inroads into the repossession bulge — and to give claimants and ministers the incentive to accept direct mortgage payments — lenders too should make a concession. It is in the first 16 weeks of unemployment, before the DSS starts paying full mortgage interest, that a large part of the arrears that ultimately lead to repossession build up. Mortgagees should agree not to demand swift repayment of these arrears. They should be added to the mortgage and repaid when the house is sold or the owner is back in work. To avoid injustice, this concession should be applied retrospectively to those who have already been unemployed for some time.

These two simple reforms would not stop repossessions. They alone would not revive confidence in the housing market. Still less would they obviate the comprehensive review of housing taxation and finance which is needed after the general election. They would alleviate some human suffering, and do so without creating new distortions or adding to the burden on the public purse.

## SPORT OF BEGGARS

Racing is to strike. Top owners and trainers aim to close down every racecourse. They are determined to extract more cash for racing before they drown in debt. This is not an implausible story line from a future episode of the BBC's Sunday drama series, *Trainer*. It is the tale to be read on the front page of yesterday's *Sunday Express*.

The *Express* claims to know the identities of the ringleaders, though it does not share them with its readers. In the absence of names, the report will be received with a high degree of scepticism. No doubt, at the end of the day, deep into the second bottle of mortgaged Bollinger, high words have been uttered, and oaths of action sworn. But when the first lot is ridden out in the cold light of dawn, such talk will be forgotten. The tactics of the Transport and General Workers' Union are alien to the turf, and an effective strike is a 100/1 shot in any realistic book.

A strike is not the solution; but racing's problems are real. Many racehorse owners are also members of Lloyd's. So hard are times for them that the horses have to go. Were it not for the apparently bottomless pockets of the Arab owners, racing's plight would be parlous indeed. Even as it is, the number of two-year-olds in training next year is expected to fall by a fifth or more. The industry wants an extra £50 million in levy from the bookmakers, and needs Kenneth

Baker, the home secretary, to back its claim. Every time that sympathy for racing rises, it manages to shoot itself in the foot. Last week, the villains were the Jockey Club members who voted to blackball the Duke of Roxburghe from membership of the club. No-one knows why. No-one says why. Comment is confined to the self-satisfied Sir William Dugdale, one of the club's membership committee, who told the *Sporting Life* that "many are called and few are chosen". A major industry deserves better than to be run by a self-appointed clique.

The best solution would lie in a new horseracing authority for the industry, as recommended in its report this summer by the Commons Select Committee on racing. The authority would represent and be accountable both to racegoers and to most of the racing industry: owners, trainers, race courses, the Jockey Club and, possibly, bookmakers, stable staff and jockeys.

Failing that, the ranks of the Jockey Club need to be widened, not with more dukes and better earls, but with Sirs, Honors, Mr's and even Ms's from the wider racing world. The Jockey Club's chief executive, Christopher Haines, and its senior steward, Lord Hartington, understand the need for change. The neanderthals beneath them still deny it. While they block reform, racing's case for cash will remain hopelessly compromised.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Case for maintaining 1984 agreement on Hong Kong

From Mr Andrew Stuart  
Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman's letter ("Hong Kong anger at Major accord", September 5) is less than fair to the British government. When I was head of the FCO Hong Kong department, in the early 1970s, we had a top secret file on "The future of Hong Kong" which we used to look at once a year, shudder and put away again (I exaggerate, but not much). The fact was that no one knew what to do.

Under the last of the Colonial Office governors, before Lord Maclehoze injected a bit more knowledge of the world into the debate, there was a comfortable hope that it was unnecessary to do anything. The theory ran that, from the Chinese point of view, we had been in illegal occupation from the beginning, and would merely continue to be so if we stayed after 1997.

But, even if that was true, and not merely an excuse for inaction, it was not the point. Everyone, in both London and Hong Kong, knew even then that it was a question of confidence; they knew that, despite the phenomenal speed with which investments in Hong Kong paid for themselves, without clear guidelines for the future by, say, 1987, ten years before the leases expired, confidence and investment could dry up.

By the time of the 1984 agreement I had moved on to other responsibilities. But my memory is that, apart from those who hoped in vain (and knew it was vain) for independence, the agreement was greeted with almost universal relief.

Some argued, though without much evidence, that different timing or tactics might have got a better deal. Since then many, including me, think that HMG have been over-cautious in interpreting the agreement and less than generous towards the Hong Kong British passport holders. However, to attack the government for negotiating with the Chinese at all is too facile.

What has changed, of course, is Tiananmen Square. The people of Hong Kong now have every right to be worried, and we have too, both on their behalf and on our own, since we have seldom had slimmer prospects of extracting ourselves

from a colonial situation with any sort of honour.

But those who condemn the 1984 agreement out of hand should ask themselves if Hong Kong would now be any more secure, six years before 1997, if there had been no agreement at all.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW STUART,  
34 Queensgate Terrace, SW7,  
September 6.

From Sir Peter Baker, MP for Blackpool South (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman alleges that the British government "urged Peking to take back Hong Kong". I have heard some far-fetched nonsense about the government's alleged motivation and alleged actions regarding Hong Kong, but until now none so wild or inaccurate as this.

The fact is that at a fairly early stage in the negotiations leading up to the 1984 agreement China's leaders made it clear that they would countenance no solution on the expiry of the lease in 1997 but a return of sovereignty to China.

The 1984 agreement was widely hailed at the time as a masterpiece of diplomacy by the United Kingdom negotiators and better than anything which could reasonably have been expected. There is no reason to alter that judgment now.

Of course the people of Hong Kong are fit for democracy, but opinion there is very divided about the speed at which the territory should move towards many more directly elected seats in the legislature.

If Sir Alfred thinks that a rapid move towards a wholly directly elected legislature would significantly reduce the rate of emigration he is living in dreamland. Indeed the effect could easily become the opposite.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BAKER  
(Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, 1979-81),  
House of Commons,  
September 5.

From Mr Martin Barrow  
Sir, I am surprised by Sir Alfred Sherman's letter. I do not know who his interlocutors were during his

visit to Hong Kong, but to imply that the community here is "seeing with animus" against British behaviour is totally misleading.

The vast majority of the people of Hong Kong are strong supporters of a close dialogue with Peking and recognise the importance of Britain's role in ensuring a successful transfer of Hong Kong sovereignty to China in 1997. The prime minister's visit to Peking has clearly been helpful in progressing the outstanding issues between the two governments.

This was not the time to reopen the debate about the pace of democracy. There has been a clear British commitment, reiterated by British ministers over the past two years, that the subject will be raised again well before the 1995 elections.

Sir Alfred also fails to mention the fact that the agreement in February 1984 that there should be 18 directly elected seats in the Legislative Council, or 30 per cent of the total, instead of the 10 seats originally planned, was a major step forward.

The implication by Sir Alfred that people are emigrating because they are denied the vote, rather than for any other reason, is also misleading. It is true that the numbers have increased, but the level has now stabilised at around 20,000 of the workforce per annum, which is less than one per cent of the total. Provided it stays at this level and that we, both in the private sector and in the government, continue to invest heavily in training and education, our economic stability should not be in danger.

Suggestions that the 1984 agreement should be reconsidered are quite unrealistic. However, resolute British support for the full implementation of the joint declaration is essential. The prime minister's reported assurance that he personally will, if necessary, take up issues with the Chinese leaders is encouraging.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN BARROW (Member,  
Hong Kong Legislative  
Council, 1988-91),  
2 Shek-O, Hong Kong,  
September 6.

### Gurkha's farewell to lost regiments

From Captain J. J. Brade  
Sir, Tomorrow I become a civilian after eight years' service in the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles. It is not a day I relish, nor one which I envisaged experiencing for some years to come. But faced with a choice between leaving the army now and remaining to meet the challenge of the "smaller but better" organisation that will dispose of my regiment, an important point of principle, that of commitment, compels the former course.

Soldiering demands of its men and women great commitment to arduous work, to a turbulent lifestyle and to a long career. Such commitment is traditionally and necessarily reciprocated by the stability of the regimental system.

Nowhere has this reciprocity been more evident than in the Brigade of Gurkhas which, under the government's programme, "Options for Change", will be reduced by 70 per cent, with the loss of all four infantry regiment cap badges. This, despite the secretary of state's 1989 "commitment" to arguably Britain's most committed soldiers that their regiments would survive.

Two things have been said in an attempt to excuse the severity of "Options for Change". First, that the cuts are driven solely by reduced defence commitments; and secondly that junior officers are less concerned than their seniors with the loss of their cap badges.

The first I reject from having worked on the Brigade of Gurkhas' future within "Options for Change" last year, when battles against further cuts to the Gurkhas were vigorously fought, not so much with MoD commitments branches, but with the Treasury. The second I answer with my departure from the army.

That the government has failed in commitments to its troops is undeniable. That it will fail in commitments to the defence of the nation must now be the worry.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
J. J. BRADY,  
Press House,  
Draycot, Somerset,  
September 2.

### Balance in countryside

From Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly

Sir, The reason for 2 million acres of our countryside (letters, September 4) being surplus to the needs of our 57 million population is the intensive and hyper-efficient farming of the rest of our land.

Such is the need for herbicides, pesticides, the manufacture of vast agricultural machines, fuel for their use and fertilisers for the land impacted by their use that ten joules of fossil-fuel energy are needed to produce one joule of edible energy

for our consumption — the remaining nine joules contributing to the overall pollution of our climate.

Less capital-intensive and more traditionally labour-intensive farming methods might, for a time, mean more expensive food, but, in the national and overall context, could not the equation be balanced out as the present vast fossil-fuel requirement diminishes?

Yours truly,  
LOUIS LE BAILLY,  
Garlands House,  
St Tudys, Bodmin, Cornwall,  
September 4.

### Hedgerow replanting

From Mr Peter Wood

Sir, Your agricultural correspondent, anticipating national hedgerow survey data from the Department of the Environment, reports (August 30) decline but not hedgerow replanting. The Royal Society of Agriculture's April membership survey indicates, anecdotally, that 33 per cent of farmer-respondents had planted hedges in the past five years. The RSA estimated a slight net gain of 1.5 hedges planted to one removed.

The evidence remains patchy since the last official estimates in 1985, but there is gain as well as loss. The south-east region of the Countryside Commission reports

replanting of 29 miles of hedgerow in the period 1988-90, and the north-west region indicates replanting of eight miles in 1989-90 in Cheshire alone.

Mr Hornsby makes much of the grants, but even the best schemes assume payment of two thirds of the cost by farmers or landowners and most involve much tedious bureaucracy. What we need in this conservation debate, as Professor Middleton (August 31) notes, is balance.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WOOD,  
Newbold Farm,  
Dunston, Gloucestershire,  
August 31.

### Alternative reading

From Mr J. A. Gere

Sir, Like Mr John Ambrose (September 5) I was interested in the version of Sir John Betjeman's poem, "On the Death of King George V", which John Grigg quoted in his recent article.

In Betjeman's second book of poems, *Continental Dew* (1937), the line that appears in his *Collected Poems* as "At the new suburb, stretched beyond the run-way" reads "At a red suburb ruled by Lady Liner".

Betjeman once told me that the name was an allusion to Lady Cunard, a prominent member of King Edward VIII's circle, and that he had originally put "Mrs Simpson". The poem in its original form must either have been published separately or circulated in MS.

Yours etc.,  
J. A. GERE,  
21 Lamont Road, SW10.

### Staffing schools

From the Headmaster of Millfield

Sir, In his helpful report (August 30) on our research, "Staffing secondary schools in the nineties", David Tytler may have overlooked one important point. It concerns the tension that exists between the obligations on headteachers to mount the national curriculum and the constrained options offered by the new delegated budgets under the terms of local management of schools (LMS).

Any head, given a free choice as to how best to improve the standard of education at school, would opt to improve the pupil-teacher ratio. Yet of the 200 heads who responded to our most detailed questionnaire, 47.6 per cent expect their pupil-teacher ratio actually to deteriorate, even though they also expect to require more teachers to deliver

### Tobacco and health

From the Director of Public Health for East Yorkshire

Sir, Your report (August 24) of stricter controls on tobacco advertising quoted the Department of Health as saying: "The evidence to justify a total ban on tobacco advertising on health grounds is not clear".

On the contrary, there is very clear, even dramatic, evidence. To give just one instance, smoking rates among Norwegian teenagers have dropped by a third since the total advertising ban of 1975.

A ban on advertising is not the complete answer to controlling the smoking epidemic; but it would be a very good start.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN SHEARD,  
Director of Public Health,  
East Yorkshire Health Authority,  
Westwood Hospital,  
Beverly, North Humberside.

### Replica weapons

From Mr Russell Orchard

Sir, Why must your leading article, "Restricting replica guns" (September 4), brand anyone with an interest in weapons past or present as having "a morbid fascination with deadly weapons"? Mankind has depended on weapons for various reasons since time began, be it David's slingshot or a stealth bomber.

The vast majority of shooters and collectors are normal, sane and intelligent people, who appreciate the craftsmanship and technical excellence achieved by weapons manufacturers — people who in some cases attain a quite amazing level of skill, in clubs all around the country.

Weapons do not kill or maim, people do this; if necessary, a criminal will obtain his weapon from the kitchen drawer, or the toolbox.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. D. ORCHARD,  
12 Elm Close, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

### Wildlife on Malta

From the High Commissioner for Malta

Sir, Ms Carla Lane was quoted in an article by Sally Brompton (Life & Times, August 19) as saying that she is campaigning to stop people holidaying in Malta, where "small birds like robins and martins are shot as they migrate".

Regulations governing the treatment of animals in Malta, especially birds, have been in existence since the 1930s and have been regularly updated. The means to ensure compliance with them has recently been strengthened, and every effort is made by the education authorities to instil among students and the general public, through the media, a sense of love and appreciation of all wildlife.

The government has also established the island of Filfla — one of the smallest islands forming part of the Maltese Archipelago — as a nature reserve. There are two other nature reserves and bird sanctuaries in Malta, one at Buskett Gardens and the other at Mellieha which won a Europa Nostra award in 1989.

Yours sincerely,  
SALV J. STELLINI,  
Malta High Commission,  
16 Kensington Square, W8.

### Discretionary grants

From Mr Michael Sparks

Sir, It is timely from our point of view that your education editor should draw attention (report, September 3) to the drastic decline in the numbers of discretionary grants available to students.

A worrying corollary to this for educational trusts such as ours is that both local and central government now actively encourage students to obtain such support from non-statutory charitable sources. Not only is this an inappropriate use of charitable resources upon which there are now so many other demands, but it represents the thin end of a very dangerous wedge. The long-term interests of students are best served by charities refusing to acquiesce.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL SPARKS  
(Clerk to the Governors),  
Sir John Cass's Foundation,  
31 Jewry Street, EC3,  
September 3.

### TV market place

From Ms Jan Butlin

Sir, So, according to Dr Stephan Buck (Media, August 28), we have nothing to fear from the domination of American television because "no American series has appeared this year in the UK monthly top 50 programmes".

I draw Dr Buck's attention to the success of the current series of *L.A. Law* which has been consistently in the top 50. According to *Broadcast's* listings, during the week ending July 28 alone, it was at number 22, with an audience of nearly 8 million.

Yours sincerely,  
JAN BUTLIN,  
11 Newport House,  
Great Newport Street, WC2.

### Drinking drawbacks

From Mr Ken Kilburn

Sir, Bernard Levin's cheerful celebration today of the glad news coming from New Zealand research may unfortunately have to be read in conjunction with your "Bad news for beer bellies" item in the same issue.

Eight snorts a day may strengthen, as well as gladden, the heart, but at the same time, apparently, displease the ladies, enlarge the (male) breasts and lose the libido.

Bacchus and Aphrodite don't always, it seems, sing in close harmony.

Yours faithfully,  
K. KILBURN,  
Dikusha, Pilgrims' Way,  
Westhumble, Dorking, Surrey,  
September 5.

From Mrs Elizabeth Allen  
Sir, I do hope Bernard Levin's liver lasts as long as his heart.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH ALLEN,  
13 Castle Street, Hereford,  
September 6.

From Mr J. N. Murphy  
Cheers, Bernard.  
I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
JOHN MURPHY,  
White House,  
Pewley Hill, Guildford, Surrey.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BALMORAL CASTLE**  
September 7: The Right Hon John Major, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) and Mrs Major have arrived at the Castle.

The Right Hon John Major had an audience of The Queen this evening.

September 8: Divine Service was held in the Parish Church this morning.

The Very Reverend Dr William Morris (Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland) preached the sermon.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
September 7: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, attended the Scotland v Barbarians International Rugby match at Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

Mrs David Bowes Lyon was in attendance.

September 8: The Princess Royal, President, Federation Equestre Internationale, today attended the European Three Day Event (CTIO), Punchestown, Republic of Ireland.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
September 7: The Prince of Wales departed from Eastleigh Airport for Samedan, Switzerland, to attend the 700th Anniversary Celebrations of the Swiss Confederation.

Mr Peter Westmacott and Mr Richard Arbiter are in attendance.

September 8: The Prince of Wales arrived at RAF Lyneham this morning from Samedan, Switzerland.

Mr Peter Westmacott and Mr Richard Arbiter were in attendance.

## Birthdays today

Mr R.B. Adams, former managing director, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, 70; Mr Michael Aldridge, actor, 71; Miss Pauline Baynes, book-illustrator, 69; Mr John Curry, ice skater, 42; Professor A.T. Florence, dean, London University School of Pharmacy, 51; Sir John Gorton, CH, former Prime Minister of Australia, 80; Mr Robin Hyman, publisher, 60; Sir John Loder, former MP, 66; Sir Peter Macdonald, former chairman, BAT Industries, 70; Viscount Mackintosh of Halifax, 33.

Mr Steve O'Shaughnessy, cricketer, 30; Sir Anthony Parsons, diplomat, 69; the Rev Professor N.W. Porteous, theologian and linguist, 95; Mr James Sebbert-Cole, headmaster, Winchester College, 81; Mr Richard Shapley, rugby player, 33; Countess Spencer, 62; Mrs Mavis Steele, bowler, 63; Mr Dave Stewart, singer and record producer, 39; Dr the Hon Shirley Summersell, former MP, 60; Mr Chaim Topol, actor and singer, 56; Miss Margaret Tyack, actress, 60; Air Commodore R.H.G. Weighall, former secretary, Rugby Football Union, 71.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will visit the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey, at 10.20.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will attend the launch, at Buckingham Palace at 10.30, of the Mars Olympic Torch Appeal which is run from Buckingham Palace.

The Princess Royal will receive the control centre of the Gloucestershire Ambulance Service HQ, Horton Road, Gloucester, at 2.30, and will open the new development at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital at 3.05.

## Fay Nind

The service of thanksgiving for the life of Fay Nind will be held at St James's Church, Abinger Common, on Friday, September 30, at 3.00 pm.

## Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball 1991

The 1991 Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball will be held on Monday, September 23, 1991, at Grosvenor House, from 7.00 pm to 2.00 am. The glittering evening, designed by David Emanuel, will start with a Veuve Clicquot Champagne reception, followed by a three-course dinner with wine. The highlight of the evening will be the traditional ceremony of the "Cutting of the Birthday Cake", made by The Jane Asher Company, followed by dancing to the music of the Dark Blues, the Alpha Connection and the David Abbot discotheque, with a surprise cabaret.

Do, please, support Queen Charlotte's Hospital. Tickets are £100 each. Cheques should be made out to Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball and sent to Media Relations Ltd, Glen House, 125 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3RP. Telephone 071-835 1000.

## Memorial service

A memorial service for the Rev Elsie Chamberlain was held on Saturday in the City Temple, Holborn. The Rev Dr Janet Wootton officiated, assisted by the Rev Ernest Rea, Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC, and the Rev Jackie Petrie, Chaplain to the RAF. Mr Geoffrey Chamberlain read the lesson.

## David Wilson Beattie

There will be a memorial service for David Wilson Beattie at the Church of St Margaret, Lothbury, London, EC2, on Friday, September 27, at 11.30 am.

## Service luncheon

Light Infantry The Lord Lieutenants of Somerset, Cornwall and Avon were the principal guests at the annual officers' luncheon of the Light Infantry held on Saturday at Taunton School, Somerset. Major-General A. Makepeace-Warne, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

## Marriages

Captain E.A. Butler and Miss S.C. Rose. The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's, Crawley, near Winchester, of Captain Edward Adam Butler, of the Royal Green Jackets, younger son of the Hon Sir Adam and Lady Butler, of Lighthorne, Warwickshire, to Miss Sophie Caroline Rose, younger daughter of Captain Alec Rose, RN, and Mrs Rose, of Petersfield, Hampshire. The Rev Colin Fox officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Vanessa Chamberlain, Sophia Wynn-Williams, Cressida Moleworth-St Aubyn, Katie Mills, George Butler, Henry Butler, and William Dolson. Mr Francis Kirkpatrick was best man.

Mr R.P. Flett and Miss F.M.G. MacGregor. The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Pulham Market, Norfolk, of Mr Robin Paul Flett, younger son of Mr and Mrs Eric Flett, of Sandford Orcas, Dorset, to Miss Fiona Mary Gair MacGregor, elder daughter of Mr John MacGregor, MP, and Mrs MacGregor, of Pulham Market. The Bishop of Norwich and Dom Martin Salton officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Juliet Dungey, Miss Fiona Kingston, Miss Catriona MacGregor and Miss Claire Greenrod. Mr Richard Wane was best man.

Mr B. Hulbert and Miss C.A.J. Anthony. The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's Parish Church, Belford, Northumberland, of Mr Benjamin Hulbert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Denis Hulbert, of Manacora, Cornwall, to Miss Charlotte Anthony, daughter of the late Major Philip Anthony and of Mrs Charles Kaipenberg, of Belford, Northumberland. The Rev Canon Peter Heywood officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Ivor Anthony was attended by Katherine Calder. Mr William Sharpley was best man.

Mr A.M. Lockett and Miss D.T. Covey. The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's Church, Belford, Northumberland, of Mr Benjamin Lockett, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Denis Lockett, of Manacora, Cornwall, to Miss D.T. Covey, daughter of the late Major Philip Anthony and of Mrs Charles Kaipenberg, of Belford, Northumberland. The Rev Canon Peter Heywood officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Juliet Dungey, Miss Fiona Kingston, Miss Catriona MacGregor and Miss Claire Greenrod. Mr Richard Wane was best man.

Mr D.P. Rowe and Miss K.A. Inman. The marriage took place on Saturday, September 7, at St Mary and All Saints Church, Dunsfold, Surrey, between Mr Peter Rowe, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.M. Rowe, of Dunsfold, Hampshire, and Miss Katherine Inman, daughter of Mr D.C. Inman, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and of the late Mrs S.T. Inman.

The reception was held at The Borough Hall, Godalming, and the couple will honeymoon abroad.

## OBITUARIES

## TOM BEAUMONT

Tom Beaumont, Lawrence of Arabia's number one Vickers gunner during the campaign against the Turks in Palestine in 1917-18, died on August 29 aged 93. He was born on January 10, 1898.

AS T. E. Lawrence remarks in his introduction to *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*: "...there were many other leaders or lonely fighters to whom this self-regarding picture is unfair. It is still less fair of course, like all war stories, to the unnamed rank and file, who miss their share of credit, as they must do until they can write the dispatches". Though a non-commissioned officer at the time, Tom Beaumont did, in fact get his chance to "write the dispatches" (in the form of an article in the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* in 1981) of his experiences of the Arab revolt against the Turks, specifically of the remarkable role played by Lawrence's Arabs in 1917 and 1918, when they virtually formed the right wing of Allenby's army in its advance on Damascus. In this campaign Beaumont played a notable role, not only as a machine gunner in the small force of armoured cars Lawrence had at his disposal, but also as an Arab interpreter.

Thomas William Beaumont was born at Dunsford, Yorkshire, and went to school and technical college there. Having failed to get into the army because he was too young, he found out about the Motor Machine Gun Service (later the Machine Gun Corps) through an article in *Motor Cycle Weekly*. This time, lying about his age, he was accepted as a recruit. He soon became an expert on Vickers, Hotchkiss and Lewis guns and was already a sergeant at 18. Drafted to Egypt, he was on the verge of succumbing to the boredom of endless lecturing in bug-infested huts roofed with mats of dried palm leaves and camel dung, when a chance came to join Lawrence's campaign in Arabia.

At that point, mid-1917, the capture of Aqaba by Lawrence had given the Arab revolt its first firm base in the Palestine theatre, at the same time removing all danger to British communications in Sinai. From this base it was possible to menace the vital Hejaz railway between Aqaba and Damascus, thereby acting as an



Arab "lever" on the right of Allenby's army which had its eyes on the invasion of Syria. Landing at Aqaba with a reinforcement of armoured cars, Beaumont and his handful of fellow volunteers first had the task of blasting and digging a roadway 60 miles into the interior capable of carrying their vehicles. In shade temperatures which often topped 120°F at midday this was a frightful ordeal during the course of which many Arabs perished. In his article "Rank and File", first written in 1935-36 and revised and extended in 1978, Beaumont recalled his first meeting with Lawrence as he stood on sentry-

go one dark night. Confronted with a bearded figure coming up silently out of the desert who refused to answer his challenge, Beaumont had the safety catch off his rifle and was about to fire when the figure said calmly "It's quite all right, I'm Lawrence". Beaumont, like so many others was soon impressed by Lawrence's magnetic personality. As he later recalled: "A prince of Mecca was in our midst". Beaumont subsequently took part in railway bridge demolition operations, as well as in the many hard-fought battles which took place as Lawrence's Arab forces and their stiffening of British armoured cars,

captured Turkish forts on their push northwards on the right flank of Allenby's army. In a matter of months they had blown up more than 80 miles of the railway, rendering it virtually useless for Turkish troop movements. Beaumont entered Damascus on the same day as Lawrence and Allenby, October 1, 1918. Triumphant though the occasion was, he confesses in his memoir that first thoughts were of a bath after weeks in the sweat of the desert. But triumph was to be short lived for Beaumont. He almost immediately contracted malaria and this was to keep him in hospital until March 1919.

After the war Beaumont worked in a textile firm and during the second world war trained Air Training Corps cadets in armaments at Dewsbury. He retired from the textile firm in 1965.

He remained under the spell of Lawrence for the rest of his life, keeping in touch with him through correspondence. The last letter he had from Lawrence (by then living in obscurity as Aircraftman Shaw) was only a week before Lawrence's death in a motorcycle accident on May 13, 1935. On that occasion Lawrence said he hoped to visit him, begging him at the same time to keep his visit a secret as he much wanted to avoid publicity. These letters from Lawrence are now held in the Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas.

Beaumont attended Lawrence's funeral and was present at the unveiling of Lawrence's bust in St Paul's cathedral in 1936. On May 13, 1983, at a full military ceremony, Beaumont planted a commemorative oak tree near the spot at which Lawrence had died in Dorset. He was in constant demand as an adviser on T. E. Lawrence projects, including articles, books (he met his second wife at a *Sunday Times* party for the launch of Philip Knightley's and Colin Simpson's book) and the David Lean film *Lawrence of Arabia*. However he declined to go to America to appear on cinema stages before showings of the film because he felt it was not an accurate portrayal of Lawrence.

His first wife, Louisa, whom he married in 1919, died in 1964. He married secondly in 1971, and leaves his widow, Helen, and a son of his first marriage.

## CHARLIE BARNET

Charlie Barnett, jazz saxophonist and bandleader, died in San Diego on September 4, aged 77. He was born on October 26, 1913.

ALTHOUGH he did not belong to the first rank of swing-era bandleaders, Charlie Barnett was one of the most colourful figures of the period, with an apparently insatiable appetite for carousing and music-making. Like his contemporary Artie Shaw, he attracted almost as much publicity over his romantic pursuits as for his musical performances. He was reported to have married six, ten or 11 times, compared to Shaw's eight.

A native of New York, Barnett was born into a wealthy family, a factor which later enabled him to indulge his passion for jazz to the full. Billie Holiday was later to describe him as "a happy-go-lucky millionaire, living it up and making money talk". Though his family had originally hoped that he would become a corporate lawyer, he rebelled and took up the more

chaotic lifestyle of a musician. By the age of 16 he was leading his own band on the liner SS Republic. In 1933 he formed his first big band for a residency at the Paramount Hotel Grill. Progress was slow at first, although in 1934 he became the first white bandleader to play at the famous Apollo Theatre in Harlem. Barnett took an enlightened attitude towards racial questions, regularly employing black musicians at a time when bandstands were still generally segregated. In the early 1940s, when Barnett employed the young Lena Horne, he found that some hotels refused to offer her a room. By threatening to cancel the reservations of the entire orchestra, he often won over the management. Barnett played alto, tenor and soprano saxophones and his style was modelled on two of the great black musicians of the era: the urbane altoist Johnny Hodges and the masterful tenor player Coleman Hawkins. As a bandleader he made no secret of his debt to Duke Ellington and Count Basie. Indeed, some of



his scores were bought directly from Ellington. In Barnett's case this was less a matter of plagiarism than a sincere desire to disseminate the music to the widest possible audience.

Barnett abruptly abandoned music in 1936 and tried his hand at a career in Hollywood. The venture proved short-lived, though he appeared in the films *Love and Hises* and *Sally, Irene and Mary*. He soon returned to jazz, forming

another big band which developed an ever firmer grasp of the Basie and Ellington repertoires. Having signed a new contract with RCA, he finally achieved a national breakthrough in 1939 with Billy May's arrangement of "Cherokee", written by the British composer Ray Noble. More hard-swinging hits followed, among them "Redskin Rhythm" and "Pompton Turnpike", "Skyliner", released in 1944, sold more than a million copies. Barnett paid tribute to his idols on "The Count's Idea" and "The Duke's Idea". With "The Wrong Idea" he mischievously parodied the trend for saccharine arrangements.

Faced with a rapid turnover of personnel caused by the war-time draft, Barnett continued to find new talent. One of his signings was the teenage pianist Dodo Marmarosa, who was to become a star of the bebop movement. Barnett himself had little genuine enthusiasm for bebop, preferring the dance-oriented energy of swing charts. He recorded mostly for the RCA label but

in the late 1940s, he briefly joined Capitol Records as an unsuccessful replacement for Stan Kenton. The top-influenced recordings included a monumentally kitsch version of "Rhapsody in Blue". Barnett's admirers could only hope that the disc was intended as a send-up of Kenton's grandiose style.

By the 1950s Barnett was concentrating on his manifold business interests though he continued to re-form bands for special occasions, including a season in Las Vegas. In 1967 Barnett was in exuberant form with a big band in the recording studio and in 1984 he was the co-author, with Stanley Dance, of *Those Swinging Years: The Autobiography of Charlie Barnett*. His irreverent sense of humour was still intact. Most readers would concur with the assessment in the reference work *Jazz: The Essential Companion*. This placed Barnett's account of his life alongside George Melly's memoir, *Owning Up*, as "the most irresistibly naughty book ever written by a jazzman."

## School announcements

**Aiglon College, Switzerland**  
Term begins on September 13. School Guardians are Nina Bischofberger and Dilip Madanani. Long Expeditions leave on October 23 and return on October 26. The school concert, to be performed at Parents' Weekend, November 8, will include Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The School Carol Service will take place on Sunday, December 8, and term ends on Monday, December 9.

**Collingham, London**  
The Autumn term at Collingham begins today. There will be an Open Evening for parents of November and January A-level students on Monday, October 21, and for parents of the second year sixth form on Monday, November 25. Half-term is from Thursday, October 24 to Sunday, October 27. The term ends on Friday, December 13.

**Forest School**  
The Michaelmas term commences today at Forest School. There will be a reunion on September 22 for Old Foresters who left School before 1955. Any Old Forester who has not received details should contact the Wardens' secretary. The Open Day will be held on September 28. The Old Foresters' Dinner will take place on October 18. Term will end on December 13 with the 125th Annual Shakespeare Play.

**King's School, Bruton**  
The Christmas Term starts on September 9. There will be 350 pupils in the school. Mr Martin Passmore becomes Housemaster of New House, and Mr David Hindley takes up a new post of Senior Master. Mr Nicholas Moor joins the Common Room as Director of Music. The Rugby XV returns from a tour of New Zealand and

Fiji. There will be a Visiting Day in National Boarding Week on Saturday, October 5. The Preparatory School has moved from Hillcrest, Castle Cary to the Junior School site at Hazle Grove House, Sparford.

**The Lady Eleanor Holles School**  
Full term began on Thursday, September 5, with 812 girls in the school. The Head Girl is Natalie Bachich and her deputy is Margaret Wilson. The Design Technology Suite is complete and work has begun on the new Sixth Form Library and Classroom Block. The Half Term holiday is from Monday, October 21, to Friday, October 25, inclusive followed by four performances of the rock musical *Grease* on Wednesday, October 30 to Saturday, November 2. The Christmas celebration will be held on the evening of Monday, December 16, the Junior Department Carol Service on Friday, December 13, and term ends on Wednesday, December 18.

**The Oratory School**  
Michaelmas Term begins today. The School Captain is R.M. Dixon. Captain of Rugby is M.R. Mansour. Half-term will be from October 19 to 27. The school play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, will be performed by the Cardinal's Men on December 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Term ends on December 8.

**St Edmund's College, Ware**  
Michaelmas Term begins today and ends with Carol Services on Saturday, December 14. The following members of Staff take up their appointments: Miss P. Dixon, as Housemistress of Stapleton; Dr J. Carey as Head of Science and Mrs J. Ramm as Head of English. Head Boy is Simon Tagg (Talbot), Head Girl is Tanya Carney (Pole). Their

Deputies are Roger James (Challoner) and Zofia Torun (Douglass).

The tercentenary of the birth of Bishop Richard Challoner will be commemorated on Monday, September 30. Old Challonerians should contact Mr D. Gallie at the College for details. The annual Careers Convention is on Thursday, October 10. An Open Morning for prospective pupils is on Saturday, October 12. The Old Edmundian celebration of the Feast of St Edmund will be on Friday, November 7. The Preacher will be the Rev K. Barltrop, Rector of Allen Hall. The bi-centenary Appeal runs throughout the term. Details from the College.

**St Margaret's School, Bushey**  
Autumn term has begun for all pupils at St Margaret's. The School Officers are: Head Girl - Leah Herring, Deputy Head Girl - Georgina Bull, Games Captain - Vanessa Fernando. The main events this term will be the Clergy Orphan Corporation Foundation Service at Canterbury together with St Edmund's School, Canterbury, on Friday, September 27, Prizegiving on Saturday, October 26, Open Day for the Old Girls' Association on Saturday, November 9. St Margaret's Day on Friday, November 15, when the preacher will be the Ven Michael Henley, Chaplain of the Fleet, General Open Day on Saturday, November 16, and term will end after the Carol Service at St Peter's Church, Bushey Heath at 2.30 pm on Thursday, December 12. We extend a warm welcome to Miss Carole Stoker who has joined the school as the new co-deputy head with Mrs Jeanie Duncan.

**St Mary's School, Wantage**  
The Autumn Term at St Mary's began on Monday, September 2, with a Staff Conference. The

refurbishment of the 4th Year dormitory area is now complete, and the alterations to the laboratories have also been finished. A computer network has been installed throughout the school. Rachel Wynn continues as Head Girl, and Sarah Brereton and Olivia Galsworthy as her Deputies. The Senior Choir will sing Evensong in Wanage Parish Church on Sunday, October 6, and in Bristol Cathedral on Saturday, October 12. Confirmation will be administered by the Right Rev Stephen Veney on Sunday, November 3. There will be a Junior Concert and a Senior Art Display on Friday, November 15. The Senior play will be performed on Sunday, 8 and Monday, 9 December, with a Gala Performance on Tuesday 10. Half Term begins at 3.30 pm on Friday, October 18, and ends on Sunday, October 27, and term ends after the Carol Service on Thursday, December 12.

**Wyldcliffe College**  
The Autumn Term begins today and ends on Sunday, December 15. The thanksgiving service for the lives of Mr S.G.H. Loosley, JP, MC, MA, Headmaster 1947-67, and Mrs Margaret Loosley will take place on Friday, September 27, at 2.30 pm in the Chapel. The Head of School is James Uys and Nicola Davies is Deputy. Mr Michael Scott-Baumann has joined the staff as Director of Studies. The Old Wyldiffian Rugby and Hockey Matches will be played on Saturday, September 14, when the Wyldiff Watermen will be holding an open day at the Boat House. On Monday, September 23, a Conference on Europe has been organized by sixth formers. An Open Morning will be held on Saturday, October 12, and the assessment for Sixth Form Scholarships will take place on Friday, November 22.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr P.M. Ackroyd and Miss J.N.L. Waldron**  
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Guy Ackroyd, of Collingham, Nottinghamshire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mrs Jo Waldron, of Puttenham, Surrey, and the late Professor Malcolm Waldron.

**Mr R.H. Begley and Miss M. Young Sit Man**  
The engagement is announced between Roy Begley, of London, N20, and Miss M. Young Sit Man, of Hong Kong.

**Mr M.E. Davies and Miss A.M. Sprackling**  
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs A.H. Davies, of Treorchy, South Wales, and Anne, daughter of Mrs Peter and Margaret Sprackling, of Nottingham.

**Mr J.T. Haynes and Miss M.A. Muir**  
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mrs J.H. Haynes and the late Mr J.H. Haynes, of Fuente del Rempujo, Spain, and Mary, daughter of Lady Rosemary Muir and the late Mr C.R. Muir, of Binfield, Berkshire.

**Flying Officer I.R. Hill and Miss M.R. Winborn**  
The engagement is announced between Ian Robert, son of Mr and Mrs R. Hill, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Mary Rose, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P.R. Winborn, of Bowdon, Cheshire.

**The Hon R.J. Laing and Miss F.J. Nunnely**  
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Lord and Lady Laing of Dunsphail, Dunsphail House, Dunsphail, Moray, and Fiona, daughter of Mrs Rachel Grant and the late Mr Freddy Grant, of Church House, Washington, Sussex.

**Mr J.R.M. Myers and Miss B.A. Philcox**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs R.A. Myers, of Turville, Henley-on-Thames, and Barbara, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.A. Philcox, of Woodford, Essex.

**Mr B.P. Rolfe and Miss C.S. Take**  
The engagement is announced between Bernard, younger son of Mrs Rose Rolfe, of Croydon, Surrey, and the late Mr Alfred Rolfe, and Caroline, only daughter of Commander and Mrs Peter Tuke, of South Haring, Petersfield, Hampshire.

**Mr L.R. Temple and Miss C.J. McCluskey**  
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr Graham Temple and the late Mrs Margaret Temple, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and Clare, daughter of Roy McCluskey, of Notting Hill Gate, London.

**Mr D.J. Turner and Miss J.A. Thompson**  
The engagement is announced between David John, son of Mr and Mrs J. Turner, of Birkbead, Merseyside, and Julia Anne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F.E. Thompson, of Andover, Hampshire.

## PATRICK DUFF

Patrick William Duff, emeritus regius professor of civil law at Cambridge university, died on August 28 aged 90. He was born on February 21, 1901.

PATRICK Duff fought a long and tenacious defence of Roman law to keep it in the law tripos curriculum at Cambridge. The battle reflected a developing struggle between the need of education to be mainly vocational and those who view it as a much wider civilising influence. The attack on Roman law can now be seen as a much more pervasive impatience with the need to study the classical world and its attributes. One defence against that is that functional education can produce functionaries but they may not be aware of ancient and civilising perspectives for their functions. Trained lawyers are not the same as educated ones.

Duff was in the thick of this battle when he took over the mantle of W. W. Buckland as regius professor in 1945 and sought to uphold the rigour of scholarship that Buckland had bequeathed. Duff was a fellow of Trinity for 66 years from 1925. He carried on a tradition which lasted more than 100 years. His father, James Duff, was a classical fellow of Trinity College from 1883 until he died in 1940.

Patrick Duff was educated at Winchester and at Trinity College, Cambridge, of which foundations he was a classical scholar.

In those days there was only one Trinity Law fellow, H. A. Holland; but the time was ripe for expansion, and it was Holland who persuaded Duff to take up the study of Roman law with a view to competing for a prize fellowship and, in due course, taking charge of Roman law teaching in the college. Duff was elected to a fellowship upon a dissertation submitted in 1925. He then spent two semesters at Munich and the academic year 1926-27 at the Harvard Law School.

In 1927 he began his teaching career, directing the studies of Trinity men in Roman law and public international law, and giving lectures in Roman law as a university lecturer. He served his college in due course as tutor, senior tutor, and dean of college with imperturbability, balanced judgment and conscientiousness. In his spare time he passed the bar examinations; he was called by Lincoln's Inn in 1933.

He was appointed in 1945 by the Crown to the regius professorship of civil law, founded by Henry VIII in 1540. In 1948 he was nominated by the university a fellow of Winchester College, which he later served for three years as warden. He was elected president of the Society of Public Teachers of Law for the year 1957-8 and as an honorary member of Lincoln's Inn in 1959. He held the vice-mastership of Trinity from 1960 until 1972.

In college politics Duff had his critics, as he had in the Law faculty, on account of what some regarded as his over-conservative temperament. But as a man he enjoyed more love and respect than are given to most. He was unmarried.











## BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceebeak**  
**6.30 Breakfast News** beginning with *Business Breakfast*. From 6.55 Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and traffic bulletins.
- 9.05 Perfect Strangers**. American comedy series about two long-lost cousins. **9.30 Family Travels**. Nigel Farage shows the country looking for people who spend their weekends pursuing unusual activities (r).
- 10.00 News**, regional news and weather. **10.05 Playdays**. 10.25 *Stopgap* and *Tidbits*. Cartoon series narrated by Terry Wogan (r). **10.35 Raggedy Ann and Andy**. Adventures of two mischievous rag dolls.
- 11.00 News**, regional news and weather. **11.05 The High Chaparral**. Classic western series. Manlyto and Jack, lord of the day, arrive at the Cannon ranch, decide to set up on their own. **11.55 Antiques**. In this first of a new 15-part daily series John McEneaney gives advice on caring for old paintings.
- 12.00 News**, regional news and weather. **12.05 The Garden Party**. Includes Glynn Christian at the end of his culinary tour of Europe and David Bellamy in the Kibble Palace of Glasgow's Botanic Gardens. **12.55 Regional news and weather**.
- 1.00 One O'Clock News** and weather. **1.30 Neighbours**. (Ceebeak). **1.55 Four corners**. The return of the general knowledge quiz game hosted by John Sachs. **2.15 Stanley and Hutch: Show Storm**. Shock horror. Two policemen are accused of pursuing a million dollars' worth of confiscated drugs. Starring Paul Michael Gleason and David Soul.
- 3.00 Pot Black**. Stephen Hendry takes on Tony Jones for the first time in this tournament. **3.25 The Hogan Family**. American comedy series about a household of males being looked after by an irrepressible aunt.
- 3.50 Fireman Sam**. Puppet series narrated by John Alderton (r). **4.25 The Chipmunks**. Cartoon (r). **4.25 Piggy**. A new series about pigs in a diner. **4.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles**. The first of a new series of adventures. (Ceebeak).
- 5.00 Newsround** with Juliet Morris and Krishnan Guru-Murthy. **5.05 Blue Peter**. A new series begins with Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane Louise Jordan exploring the world of the sea.
- 5.35 Neighbours** (r). (Ceebeak). **5.45 Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster**. **6.00 Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather. **6.30 Regional news magazines**. Northern Ireland: Neighbours.



Among Gloria Hunniford's guests: singer Natalie Cole (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Wogan** with Gloria Hunniford. Among tonight's guests in this first show of Gloria Hunniford's two-week stint as the Grammy award-winning Natalie Cole, daughter of the legendary Nat "King" Cole. Plus Rick Mayall and Mogen Edwards-Jones, who became a Hollywood celebrity on a shoestring.
- 7.30 Daylight Robbery 2**. Another chance to see, as they say for yet another repeat, the BBC's Natural History Unit's eight-stage assault course for integral squirrels. Plus film of talented squirrels in other parts of the world, including one that has learned how to break into a chocolate vending machine. (Ceebeak).
- 8.00 Telly Addicts**. A place in the quarter-finals is at stake when the Marks family from Southgate meet the Loyds of the East Midlands and East Angles. The questionmaster is Noel Edmonds.
- 8.30 British Strokes**. Tired comedy series starring Karl Howman as the famous painter and decorator (r). (Ceebeak).
- 9.00 News O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis. (Ceebeak). Regional news and weather.
- 9.30 Panorama: Goodbye USSR**. Gavin Hewitt examines the break-up of the Soviet Union and its loss of status as a super power.
- 10.10 Law and Order**. American police and courtroom drama series. The two sons of a murdered businessman come under suspicion when it emerges that they hated their father and stand to inherit millions.
- 11.00 Flash Stark - Mirror Image** (1989) starring Dennis Hopper, Kristie Alley and Ben Murphy. A hard-bitten policeman arrives in Las Vegas to investigate the death of his best friend, also a policeman. His investigations unearth evidence of police connivance with drug barons. Routine TV movie, directed by Noel Nosseck.
- 12.30 News** and weather.

## BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Social Problems and Social Welfare** 7.10 Monty Python: Life in a Castle. Ends at 7.35.
- 8.00 News**.
- 8.15 The Gun**. This first in a series exploring the development of the firearm examines its impact on warfare and concepts of chivalry (r).
- 8.30 The Journey**. Playwright Peter Terson and reporter Dennis Skidmore in the first of a series in which they travel the Pilgrim's Way from Winchester to Canterbury in a gypsy caravan (r).
- 9.00 A Fisherman's Diary**. North country fisherman Derek Law casts for plaice on one of Nostle Priory's lakes and visits Wheatsdale where he tries for grayling. There is also a look at the work of a riverkeeper at this busy time of the year (r).
- 9.30 Liberal Democrats' Conference**. Donald McCormick and Vivian White introduce coverage from Bournemouth of the opening debate, on the equality of women and on the citizen's relationship with the institutions of the European Community. The session ends with an address by the party's president, Charles Kennedy, MP.
- 12.55 The Famous Teddy Z**. Comedy series about a young Hollywood agent. **1.30 Charlie Chalk**. Animated series (r). **1.35 Discovering Birds**. Tony Sopar on the delights of birdwatching (r).
- 2.00 News** and weather followed by *Songs of Protest* from kids on the shores of Loch Erne (r). **2.35 Under Seal**. Film of the sailing boats of Portugal's Atlantic coast which are still used to dredge for seaweed (r).
- 3.00 News** and weather followed by *The Little World of the Little Pony*. A celebration of the Shetland pony (r). **3.55 News**, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 Eventing**. The show jumping phase of the European Three-Day Event championship from Punchestown, Ireland.
- 5.00 Byways**. Colin Sorenson, keeper of the modern department of the Museum of London, looks at entertainments enjoyed by Londoners in earlier days (r).
- 5.30 Missing, Presumed Dead**. The story of a real-life missing person enquiry that turned out to be the biggest murder hunt in Jersey's history. Narrated by John (Bergers) Nettles (r).
- 6.00 Film: Fleming Star** (1980) starring Elyse Presley, Barbara Eden and Steve Forrest. Crisp western, directed by Don (Dirty Harry) Siegel, about a young half-breed who is forced to choose sides when his mother's tribe goes on the rampage against white settlers.
- 7.30 Building Slights**. Architect Sir Norman Foster enthuses over the design of the Boeing 747 (r).
- 7.45 Cine Memo**. Film shot by amateurs from Britain, France and Germany during the first half of the century. (Ceebeak).
- 8.30 Film: The Secret Life of Kathy McCormick** (1988) starring Barbara Eden. This romantic comedy of misunderstanding which begins when Kathy tells her charity lunch neighbours that she works at "the market". They assume she means the stock exchange but in fact she is employed at a supermarket. All goes smoothly until she falls for a millionaire. Directed by Robert Lewis. (Ceebeak).
- 10.00 Harry Enfield's Television Programme**. A compilation of Enfield's comic characters (r).
- 10.30 Newsnight**.



Hosting the innovative arts magazine: Sarah Dunant (11.15pm)

- 11.15 The Late Show**  
 © CHOICE: Having made history as the last television programme from Line Group studios before the plug was pulled in the summer, *The Late Show* opens its fourth season with a new set and new graphics. A further innovation is a monthly edition from the United States, starting on October 3 with items on Norman Mailer (as he the ultimate male role model) and the cult of the war memorial. Jeremy Isaacs's excellent *Face to Face* revival continues with Professor Norman Stone and Vanessa Redgrave. On Thursday the show chronicles an unusual collaboration between Opera North and inmates of Wakefield maximum security prison and tonight's scheduled subjects are media whitewash in Moscow and the new Martin Amis novel, *Time's Arrow*. The only trouble with *The Late Show* is that it is so late and many viewers would surely welcome a transmission time more tuned to major sleeping habits. **11.55 Weather**.
- 12.00 Open University: Rural Life - Image and Reality**. Ends at 12.30am.

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am**  
**6.25 Runaway**. Richard Madeley hosts another round of the general knowledge quiz in which three contestants compete for a luxury holiday. **6.55 News** and weather.
- 10.00 The Time**. The Place... John Stapleton chairs a topical discussion.
- 10.40 This Morning**. Magazine series on family matters presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan from Liverpool's Albert Dock. Today's edition includes, at 11.00, Carol Vorderman's guide to the educational system. Plus national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.
- 12.10 Rosie and Jim**. Puppet series, written and presented by John Cunliffe, creator of *Postman Pat* (r).
- 12.30 News** and weather. **1.10 Thames news and weather**. **1.20 Home and Away**. (Crackle). **1.50 A Country Practice**. Australian medical drama set in a rural health centre.
- 2.20 Thames Help**. A preview of this week's programmes on benefits for children. **2.50 The Absolute Beginner's Guide to Cooking**. Actors Michael Elphick and Don Henderson prepare food in the home, Yorkshire pudding and peas.
- 3.15 ITN News**. Headlines. **3.30 Thames News** headlines. **3.25 Families**. Soap linking the north of England with Australia.
- 3.55 Fraggle Rock**. Cartoon based on the puppet series created by the late Jim Henson. **4.10 Cartoon** featuring Porcupine Pig (r). **4.20 T-Bag and the Revenge of the T-Sat (r). **4.45 Tiny Toon Adventures**. Emmy award-winning cartoon adventure series created by Steven Spielberg.**
- 5.10 Blockbusters**. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Hoynes.
- 5.40 News** (Crackle). Weather.
- 5.55 Thames Help**. John Murray with advice on claiming maternity.
- 6.00 Home and Away** (r). (Crackle).
- 6.30 Thames News** (Crackle) and weather.
- 7.00 The Krypton Factor**. Gordon Burns presents the second of 13 heats in the brain and brawn competition. Six more intrepid competitors are joined by guests Michelle Collins and Tony Robinson. (Crackle).

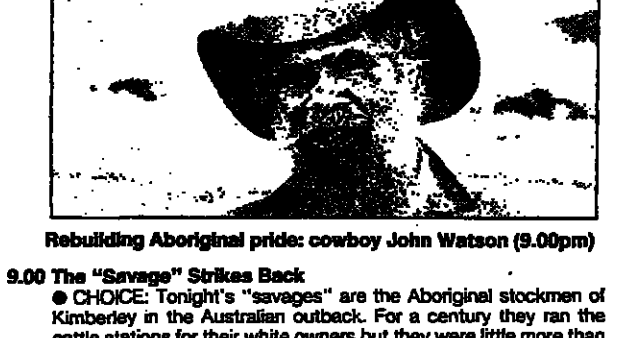


A toast to... celebrating down at the Rovers (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street**. It is party time at the Rovers with the Gilleys, Galt and Martin Platt all having something to celebrate. (Crackle).
- 8.00 Voyage of Terror: The Achille Lauro Affair**. The concluding part of the dramatic reconstruction of the hijacking of a luxury Italian cruise liner carrying 800 passengers, starring Burt Lancaster and Eva Marie Saint. (Crackle).
- 10.00 News** at Ten. (Crackle). Weather. **10.30 Thames News** and weather.
- 10.40 Thames Special: A Question For London**. Nick Ross chairs a discussion on how to ease traffic congestion in the capital. Among those taking part are transport minister Roger Freeman, Labour's transport spokesman John Prescott and representatives of London Transport and British Rail.
- 11.40 In the Heat of the Night**. Police drama series set in America's Deep South, starring Carroll O'Connor and Howard Rollins.
- 12.30am Sportsround Extra**. Tony Franks introduces highlights of the Swiss open golf from Crans-sur-Sierre.
- 1.30 A Night in Casablanca** (1946, b/w) starring the Marx Brothers in their last important movie. Groucho plays the manager of a Casablanca hotel that is home to escaped nazis bent on regaining plundered jewels and works of art. Some inspired moments but the team is starting to run down. Directed by Archibald MacLeish.
- 3.00 American College Football**. Action from the Disney Piznik classic.
- 4.00 Florence or Life in the Chateau**. French drama series starring Annie Girardot.
- 5.00 Along the Cotswold Way**. Clive Gurnell leaves Weston for Dyrham Park, Avon.
- 5.30 ITN Morning News**. Ends at 6.00.

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel 4 Daily**  
**9.25 Film: Another Shore** (1948, b/w) starring Robert Beatty. Whimsical and below-par Ealing comedy about a Dubliner who dreams about living on a South Sea island. His hopes are raised when he comes into contact with a millionaire. With Stanley Holloway and Mollie Lester. Directed by Charles Crichton.
- 10.50 Pete Smith Special: I Love My Mother-in-Law** (b/w). An MGM short.
- 11.00 K2 - Triumph and Tragedy**. Chris Bonington and Jim Curran trace the history of attempts to climb the world's most dangerous mountain.
- 12.00 Short Stories: Night Caller**. A profile of "The Graveyard Shift" - the name given to the 1.00am-6.00 slot on London's LBC radio (r). (Teletext).
- 12.30 Business Daily** 1.00 *Sesame Street* (r).
- 2.00 Film: Three Coins in the Fountain** (1954) starring Dorothy McGuire, Jean Peters and Maggie McNamara. Lush romantic comedy about three American secretaries who find love in the Eternal City in the shapes of Clifton Webb, Rossano Brazzi and Louis Jourdan. The film won two Oscars - one for Milton Krassner's photography, the other for the title song written by Julie Styne and Sammy Kahn. Chorus from Cuban animator Juan Padron.
- 3.55 Quinceañera**. Cartoon from Cuban animator Juan Padron.
- 4.00 Garden Club visits Glasgow (r).**
- 4.30 Countdown** with Richard Whiteley.
- 5.00 The Prodigious Hickey**. Episode two of a three-part American drama series about the adventures of a turn-of-the-century schoolboy.
- 6.00 The Wonder Years**. Comedy series about a boy growing up in 1960s America. Starring Fred Savage.
- 6.30 The Henderson Kids**. Australian serial that launched a young Kylie Minogue on an unsuspecting public (r).
- 7.00 Channel 4 News**. (Teletext). Weather. **7.50 Comment**. **8.00 Brookside**. Topical suburban Manchester soap. (Teletext).
- 8.30 My Two Dads**. Thankfully the last of the American comedy about two men who inherit a daughter when her mother dies.



Rebuilding Aboriginal pride: cowboy John Watson (9.00pm)

- 9.00 The "Savage" Strikes Back**  
 © CHOICE: Tonight's "savages" are the Aboriginal stockmen of Kimberley in the Australian outback. For a century they ran the cattle stations for their white owners but they were little more than slave labour. When in the 1960s they won the right to equal pay with whites, station owners sacked them and they were driven from their land. Now they are trying to take it back. Graham Chase's film features the Watson family, who have been trying to rebuild a cattle station and with it Aboriginal pride. Their endeavours have come under threat from two directions. One is the born-again Christianity which the white man has brought to the area in direct opposition to Aboriginal culture. The other is a mining company, which could turn the cattle station into an open-pit mine. Despite their best efforts the Watsons may end up only with new grievances to set beside the many old ones.
- 10.00 B.N.G.** Sturdy Canadian drama set behind the scenes of a television news station.
- 11.00 Vietnam Cinema**  
 © CHOICE: A trailer for Channel 4's season of films from Vietnam may sometimes come across as a parody political broadcast for Ho Chi Minh but it properly reminds us that the Vietnamese film industry developed against the background of 30 years of war against the French and the Americans. Uncle Ho himself launched his country's cinema in 1953. Equipment was primitive and films tended to concentrate on the heroic struggle against the western enemies. Neil Gibson's documentary is strong on first-hand reminiscence and contains vivid accounts of making and showing films in the most discouraging circumstances. But little is said about the quality of the output or the implications of being "a people's artist" in a state controlled industry. The programme could have done with an independent critical guide through what for most British viewers must be unknown territory.
- 12.20am Film: Vinh Linh Steel Rampart** (1971, b/w). The story of the resistance and resilience of the people of Vinh Linh, an area constantly bombed and shelled by the Americans for four years during the Vietnam war. Directed by Ngoc Quynh. Ends at 1.15.

## ITV

- ANGLIA**  
 As London except: 2.20pm *Gardeners for All*. **2.50-3.15 Graham Kerr**. **3.25-3.45 News**. **10.40-11.00 News**. **11.10-11.25 News**. **11.30-11.45 News**.
- BORDER**  
 As London except: 1.50pm *Who's the Boss?*. **2.20-2.35 News**. **2.35-2.50 News**. **3.15-3.30 News**. **3.30-3.45 News**. **3.45-4.00 News**. **4.00-4.15 News**. **4.15-4.30 News**. **4.30-4.45 News**. **4.45-5.00 News**. **5.00-5.15 News**. **5.15-5.30 News**. **5.30-5.45 News**. **5.45-6.00 News**. **6.00-6.15 News**. **6.15-6.30 News**. **6.30-6.45 News**. **6.45-7.00 News**. **7.00-7.15 News**. **7.15-7.30 News**. **7.30-7.45 News**. **7.45-8.00 News**. **8.00-8.15 News**. **8.15-8.30 News**. **8.30-8.45 News**. **8.45-9.00 News**. **9.00-9.15 News**. **9.15-9.30 News**. **9.30-9.45 News**. **9.45-10.00 News**. **10.00-10.15 News**. **10.15-10.30 News**. **10.30-10.45 News**. **10.45-11.00 News**. **11.00-11.15 News**. **11.15-11.30 News**. **11.30-11.45 News**. **11.45-12.00 News**. **12.00-12.15 News**. **12.15-12.30 News**. **12.30-12.45 News**. **12.45-1.00 News**. **1.00-1.15 News**. **1.15-1.30 News**. **1.30-1.45 News**. **1.45-2.00 News**. **2.00-2.15 News**. **2.15-2.30 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## Yugoslav army defies president

Continued from page 1

eastern region of Slavonia, from which the mainly Croat population has fled. Zagreb television reported that Yugoslav aircraft made a rocket and machine-gun attack on Osijek airport.

As the head of the country's collective presidency, Mr. Mesić, a Croat, is also supreme commander of the armed forces. Military commanders now appear, however, to be acting autonomously in their frequent interventions on the Serbian side in the fighting.

Meanwhile, the fragile Yugoslav federation looked likely to suffer a further blow yesterday when one and a quarter million voters in the southernmost republic of Macedonia took part in a referendum to decide whether Macedonia should join Slovenia and Croatia in declaring its independence. With fears of alleged Serbian expansionism running high, the Macedonian vote is expected to be in favour of securing an escape from the federation while the Serbs are dealing with Croatia.

The wording of the referendum gives an independent Macedonia the right to rejoin a future federation, but the creeping collapse of Yugoslavia means that the small and economically backward republic is preparing to go it alone, placing its hopes in a future Balkan economic and political community.

The main Zagreb to Belgrade highway remained closed yesterday with two Croatian guardsmen killed in clashes near the road.

The EEC special envoy, Henri Wijnants, reported "mixed results" from the commission's efforts to get the Croatian and Serbian forces to observe their agreed ceasefire. His helicopter came under fire while he carried out a monitoring mission last Friday.

Osijek targeted, page 9  
Leading article, page 13

## The Times' man of 55 beats the Old Man of Hoy



The target: the Old Man of Hoy, a brooding tower of Orcadian clay balanced impossibly on feet of granite a giant's stride from the shore

Ronald Faax marks the anniversary of a gripping day's television by taking on a colossus and passing the ultimate test of a climber's art

THE Old Man of Hoy holds the Pentland Firth in his blind gaze, a crumbling colossus 500ft high a giant's stride from the Orkney shore. Twenty-five years ago the sheer walls of the tallest British sea stack, nearly four times the height of Nelson's column, were first breached by rock climbers. This climbing season could not be allowed to pass without an expedition to mark the first ascent of the land's most inaccessible summit.

With the pioneers, Dr Tom Fawcett, Chris Bonington and Rusty Baillie, in mind, three old masters and a gentleman from *The Times* on Friday set out to conquer the Old Man, who has patiently allowed a generation of climbers to hammer pions into his sides and hang from his fragile holds.

Local folk on Hoy are used to being approached by individuals swathed in ropes wanting to know the whereabouts of the Old Man, and they are not overly impressed. Legend has it that for a bet one elderly islander swarmed to the top on his own and, having left his favourite pipe on the summit, went back to retrieve it.

The first sight of the giant excites not butterflies but a wasp swarm in the stomach. It does not look possible, which is why a year after the first ascent 15 million people were glued to their television sets to watch a band of climbers make their dizzy way to the top. It was one of the most successful outside broadcasts ever.

The Old Man was once a narrow headland, but years of hammering from wind and waves severed links with the shore. Since indepen-



The victor: Ronald Faax, mightily relieved, in triumph on the summit

dence it has become something of a world wonder, a sinister tower of Orcadian clay balanced impossibly on feet of granite.

In Victorian times a poet was moved to write:

See Hoy's old man,  
Whose summit bare,  
Pierces the dark blue  
Fields of air.  
Based in the sea  
His fearful form  
Gooms like the spirit  
Of the storm.

A taxi paused as it passed us. It carried three climbers anxious to know if we were Irish. "We're after making the first Irish ascent," one confided. The driver recalled the scores of folk he had taken to Rackwick and the footpath along the cliffs. Some looked terrified by the prospect, others attempted nonchalance. A boy aged nine had climbed it with his father, and an 11-year-old planned a charity ascent soon. "But it is not something that many Hoy folk have dreamed of attempting," he said, suggesting that Hoy folk have more sense.

The Old Man may have been slotted into the mount-

aineer's vernacular as "hard very severe with a 5a crux pitch", but few climbs have such awesome atmosphere and exposure with the Atlantic exploding at their feet.

The start is deceptively easy, a long ridge leading to a lofty pulpit rather like a ladder set against a house side. Then the fun begins, with a traverse across ledges of dusty sandstone that feel like ball bearings beneath the toes. Beneath the heels, the Atlantic begins to swirl in slowly exploding waves.

The traverse leads to an even steeper wall beneath an overhang. Rusty bolts and wooden wedges hammered into cracks appear, relics of the television spectacular. I grab them shamelessly, heaving myself around the overhang and into a bottomless sentry box. A swing into space on finger tips slippery with sweat brings into view another, ferocious-looking crack. Planning for hands and feet is like planning chess moves, and the concentration wipes away the sense of empty space below.

We overtake the Irish, who disappear up a slimy chim-

ney from which lumps of the Old Man whistle into space. The final pitch is a corner with two walls of rock set like the pages of an open book. The technique is to bridge the gap between them until at 60ft a move up a slight overhang can be made by hanging on the arms and working the feet in friction up smooth rock. With the full drop of the Old Man, it is the ultimate test of whether a climber finds his sport exhilarating, or simply terrifying.

We arrive on the small patch of grass, badly worn by nesting birds and the careful feel of rock climbers, with fulmars gliding silent around our heads. One of the Irish emerges from the crack, eyes wild and hands trembling. He crawls on all fours, gasping "Jesus Christ" more in prayer than profanity. Our descent is swift, in plunging abseils, with the final drop 200ft to a landing 50ft clear of the rock face. It is the most fearsome part of the expedition, but the Old Man and Sir Isaac Newton share a common law; that what goes up must inevitably come down.

World  
to grow  
at 3%  
says IMF

## Time for change, Ashdown says

Continued from page 1

for participation in any coalition government, Mr Ashdown said that he refused to spend the week talking about hung parliaments. He did not want them.

He accused the two main parties, which have said that they would reject conditions, of preparing to ignore the wishes of the electorate by "grabbing power on a minority government basis". Only the in-

roduction of PR in those circumstances, Mr Ashdown said, would provide for stable government.

Saying straight-faced that while others were concerned with election timing his party was concerned with electoral issues, Mr Ashdown claimed last night: "We will not be sidetracked by electoral fever". The conference week will be devoted to spelling out his party's distinctive mess-

age, he said, adding that only the Liberal Democrats, with their new slogan "Changing Britain for Good", were committed to change. His was, he said, the only party committed to putting education at the top of the agenda, the only party united on Europe and the only party prepared to tackle environmental issues.

Ashdown pledge, page 6

## Alert raised on cities' car smog

Continued from page 1

exhaust pollution from January 1, 1993, which demand use of catalytic converters, which filter out up to 90 per cent of toxic exhaust gases. The regulations apply only to cars made after that date, leaving millions to old fumes.

Existing technology also means that few steps will be taken in the next few years to improve fuel economy dramatically from petrol engines,

which would cut output of carbon dioxide, the main gas in global warming.

However, car companies will tomorrow display at the Frankfurt Motor Show the most impressive signs yet that they are preparing for a green future by switching huge resources to making electrically powered cars. The companies are spurred by the fact that California, the world's richest car market, will have legisla-

tion by 1998 requiring that 2 per cent of cars on sale are "zero-emission vehicles".

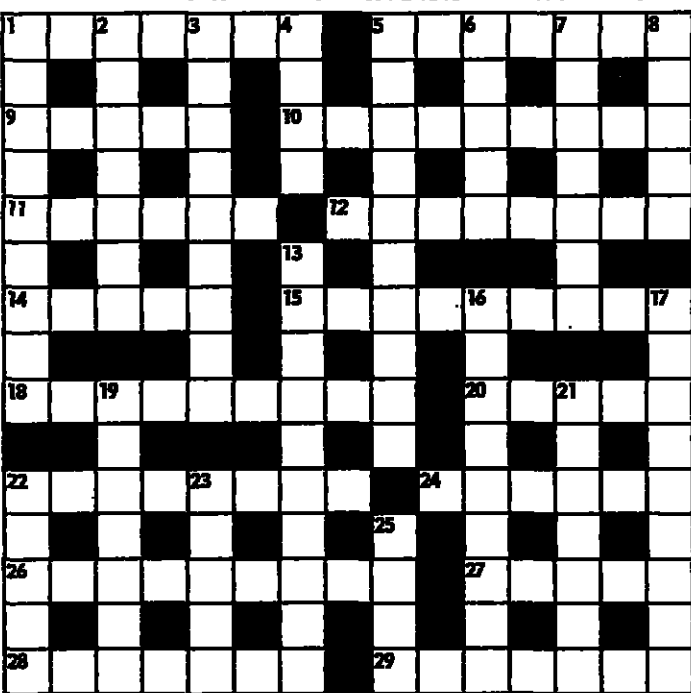
Cars developed for California could be available for use in Europe this century. The first is British-developed and could be in use in Los Angeles by 1993. The LA301 was designed by IAD, of Worthing, Sussex, for use by a city utilities department. BMW's E1 model city car will draw notice at the show.

## TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Haemophiliacs who became HIV-infected after blood transfusions have received compensation but why have others similarly infected by contaminated transfusions been denied a payout? The discrepancy has been condemned as callous and arbitrary. Christopher Miller considers how accident compensation is claimed and granted in Britain

Soft, feminine, down to earth... the appeal of suede has something to do with its looks, something to do with the feeling it gives next to the skin. Sarah Newton reviews the Maxfield Parish numbers designed by Nigel Preston

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,706



### WORD WATCHES

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

### ACROSS

- Force legal action to be taken about a scandal (7).
- Cover an article in tin or lead (7).
- Poles carrying listening equipment make approaches (5).
- Politicians ordering means test (9).
- Close by a river or brook (6).
- The relay can be tough (8).
- A little model Hindus make in India (5).
- Worked out cut without hesitation (9).
- Note the temporary accommodation - one has to take on the maintenance (9).
- A player's shot if including no loud music! (2-3).
- Family quarrel coming to an end? (8).
- A newspaper leader (6).

### DOWN

- It holds for certain - no wobbling (9).
- An instrument or mount turned over (5).
- Put into the regular procedure as a favour (7).
- Quite slow - notably so (7).
- Competitor not in favour of a certain proposal (9).
- Check on a boy's upbringing - it's a disgrace (7).
- The new senator is to make a statement (9).
- Note a high-minded individual's bearing (4).
- Close man - he represented fickle people (10).
- Quickly consume about fifty and double up! (5).
- Inoffensive, lacking aspiration, so short of members (7).
- Dope obtainable from a hostelry in New York (5).
- Stopping the ball - grabbing two points first (10).
- The... shows the man, as morning shows the day" (Milton) (9).
- Courtesy causing hold up in French church (9).
- Occupies a number of workers (7).
- The figure of a military officer wearing a tab (7).
- It's incumbent to have transport after six (5).
- Late turn? Right! (5).
- Publicise a set-up in song (4).

### PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,705 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Concise crossword, page 15

Parts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland will start today with fog, slow to clear before the sun breaks through. Most places, however, will be dry and quite sunny. Southern Scotland will be dry and sunny, but northern Scotland cloudy, with drizzle likely on coasts before rain moves south from Shetland to the north mainland. Outlook warm and sunny before cooler weather spreads south behind cloud and rain.

Area				Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	12	10	10	Cloudy			
Edinburgh	10	10	10	Cloudy			
Belfast	10	10	10	Cloudy			
Cardiff	10	10	10	Cloudy			
Manchester	10	10	10	Cloudy			
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## World to grow at 3%, says IMF

THE International Monetary Fund expects the world economy to shake off its worst performance in nearly a decade and stage a modest recovery next year, diplomats said in Washington.

They added the IMF is forecasting world economic growth will rise to almost 3 per cent next year after dropping to 1 per cent this year.

Lower interest rates and oil prices should help spur the recovery from this year's slump, which was triggered by the financial fallout from the Gulf war, particularly the sharp rise in oil prices after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The global rebound will be paced by a recovery in America, where the economy is expected to expand by 3 per cent next year after contracting slightly this year. The new forecast, which will be officially released next month just before the IMF/World Bank annual meeting in Thailand, does not differ significantly from the fund's last one in April, the diplomats said.

They added that IMF staff appear confident that the American recovery is sustainable and that a double-dip recession, where the economy slips back after a brief upturn, is unlikely.

## Redland set for German growth

Bras, the Redland construction group's 51 per cent owned subsidiary in Germany, is to acquire brickworks, clay reserves and a site at Narsdorf, near Leipzig, where a clay plant is to be built. Total investment will be £30 million.

The project will increase Redland's investment in its core business since its £280 million March rights issue to £70 million. Bras has bought interests in Scandinavia, America and Australia.

## Action in Peru linked to BCCI

Judge Felipe Villavicencio has ordered the arrest of Leonel Figueroa, former president of the Central Reserve Bank of Peru, Hector Neyra, former bank general manager, and Ana Maria Tenenbaum, former manager of the international operations department, in connection with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

The judge also ordered the judicial police to embargo personal assets worth up to \$3 million, the amount Robert Morgenthau, the district attorney for Manhattan, alleged Señor Figueroa and Señor Neyra had accepted from BCCI in return for depositing up to \$70 million of Peru's reserves.

## Invergordon may forecast £30m

Invergordon Distillers, facing a £286 million bid by Whyte & Mackay, unveils interim results and a profit forecast for 1991 on Wednesday. The company is expected to promise pre-tax profits will rise from £22.7 million in 1990 to more than £30 million for the year to end-December.

## Danish chief for Euro bank job

Erik Hoffmeyer, governor of Denmark's central bank since 1965, will be the sole candidate when his peers meet at the Bank for International Settlements in Basle today to elect a successor to Karl Otto Pöhl as chairman of the European Community's central bank governors to cover the crucial period of decisions on monetary union.

Fish position, page 21

## CHANGE ON WEEK

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.6935 (+0.0175)  
German mark 2.9425 (+0.0070)  
Exchange index 91.0 (+0.5)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 2083.6 (+14.3)

FT-SE 100 2667.4 (+21.7)

New York Dow Jones 3011.63 (-31.97)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22692.60 (+356.73)

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# Power chiefs form lobby to seek national energy plan

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAMES HANN, the chairman of Scottish Nuclear, has launched a formidable attack on the government's policy of leaving energy decisions to market forces, and called for a national energy plan.

His call marks the emergence of a powerful and vociferous lobby, including John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric, Malcolm Edwards, commercial director of British Coal, and Michael Clark, chairman of the Commons Energy Select Committee,

in favour of a clear strategy statement on the role of competing energy sources.

The future of nuclear plants and British Coal is threatened by government willingness to allow natural gas and imported coal to be used to fuel Britain's power stations.

Pressure from those at risk is being strongly resisted by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, who introduced the shock of market forces by privatising large chunks of Britain's electricity industry.

Mr Hann said: "Energy is too important to our whole way of life in these last few

years of the twentieth century to be left to market forces alone. We must start now to create an energy plan."

In a message to Mr Wakeham, Mr Hann said: "Market forces are an essential discipline but they are not a final substitute for necessary political choice. No market mechanism on its own can ever balance the conflicting objectives of obtaining the cheapest possible energy, of ensuring security of supply, and of protecting our environmental legacy for generations as yet unborn."

As part of the privatisation process, the

government put in place safeguards which protect the nuclear industry until 1998, and encourage development of plants generating power from renewable sources such as wind and water.

However, the government deferred a decision on the future of nuclear power, which accounts for 20.8 per cent of Britain's needs, until 1994, arguing that the nuclear industry needed more time to become competitive.

Mr Hann said if nuclear power was to maintain its contribution to Britain's

supplies, four more plants must be built before the end of the century. An extension to the life of a first generation Magnox plant at Hinkley Point, Somerset, is likely to be decided by a report this week, by the Health and Safety Executive.

The "energy plan" Mr Hann seeks would "take into account" other fuels and renewable energy and would simultaneously encourage energy conservation and more electrification.

Climate changes, page 21

# Brent Walker banks reject Lonrho offer

By ANGELA MACKAY AND MATTHEW BOND

BRENT Walker could pass into administration after a meeting of its bondholders today. This follows a heated weekend of brinkmanship by the main parties to the leisure group's future.

The directors of Brent Walker and its 47 bankers yesterday rejected out of hand a formal proposal by Lonrho, the international conglomerate, to convert £1 billion of the company's £1.3 billion debt into Lonrho convertible preference shares.

The company said Lonrho's intervention was an "irrelevant and opportunistic attempt to undermine the interest of shareholders, bondholders and creditors alike."

Brent Walker's rebuff precedes a meeting of the rebellious bondholders, including Lonrho, whose approval is needed if the board's own refinancing proposals are to be implemented.

Lonrho's proposal has been simmering for two months but has only been recently translated by Hambros, the merchant bank acting for Lonrho and other bondholders, into a formal offer. Acceptance of the proposal would give Lonrho's management, headed by Tiny Rowland, the executive chairman, full control of the company. Brent Walker said Lonrho had made no quantifiable offer for any

class of the group's share capital.

Michael Smurfit, the Irish businessman who personally and corporately speaks for 25 per cent of the £102 million of Brent Walker's convertible bonds, is known to support the Lonrho proposal and is expected to reject Brent Walker's revised terms once again and lay down his own.

Some of the banks are in turn demanding that the bondholders waive their right of legal redress but Mr Smurfit, with other bond holders including Lonrho and Hambros, will refuse to agree such a waiver, after Brent Walker's admission last week that the 1990 interim results which preceded the bond issue were inflated.

George Walker, the deposed chairman and chief executive of the company, who is also a bondholder, said last week his main objective was to see the company survive either via the refinancing arrangements favoured by the new board or through other means.

Walker and his family will issue writs today in the High Court claiming £20 million from Brent Walker related to salary and pension claims.

Lonrho's offer would give lenders about 50-55p in the pound through a £900 million 9 for 10 issue of preference stock attracting a low 3 per cent coupon. In a liquidation, Lonrho believes the pay out

would be much less. But Brent Walker's new management says bondholders would get nothing.

A Lonrho spokesman said: "From the point of view of bondholders and equity shareholders our proposal provides marketable paper as opposed to the company's untradeable alternative." Lonrho shareholders would need to approve the deal and, before the proposal could be transformed into an offer, a Lonrho team would undertake to perform due diligence. He added: "We have a team standing by to undertake the due diligence as soon as possible."

It is believed some of Brent Walker's banks, including Standard Chartered, were supportive of the Lonrho scheme, but all would have to agree such an offer for it to succeed.

Brent Walker stated that leaked information about the offer was particularly irritating at a time when management was making "real progress" with the final stages of the rescue plan. "The refinancing package which has been negotiated and agreed with the syndicate of banks represents the only real way in which value can be secured for shareholders and creditors alike," it added.

"No offer to the creditors, especially when couched in terms of Lonrho's 3 per cent redeemable preference shares, stands up by comparison."

# Analysts play down effect of BP Colombian prospect

By MARTIN BARROW

BP's CUISIANA prospect in Colombia, hailed by the oil company as world class, will have a negligible impact on earnings, according to research published today.

Analysts at Société Générale Strauss Turbulla estimate that the Cuisiana discovery is probably worth about 5.3p a share to BP, increasing the company's value by less than 2 per cent. BP said: "It is much too early to make an analysis of this kind."

The prospect has previously been compared with BP's interest in the Forties field in the North-Sea and with Prudhoe Bay in Alaska. Publicly, David Simon, BP's chief operating officer, has shown caution about the discovery, the first fruit of the policy of focusing on frontier exploration areas, yet has variously described it as "significant" and "major".

Strauss Turbulla's oil team, led by John Toalster, said, however, that Cuisiana should

not be regarded as another Prudhoe or Forties, and expressed concern about the emphasis BP has placed on the area. Although BP says that not enough is known about the field to quantify oil reserves, industry sources suggest that Cuisiana could contain between 2 billion and 3 billion barrels of oil, making it at least half the size of the Forties field. BP, acting as

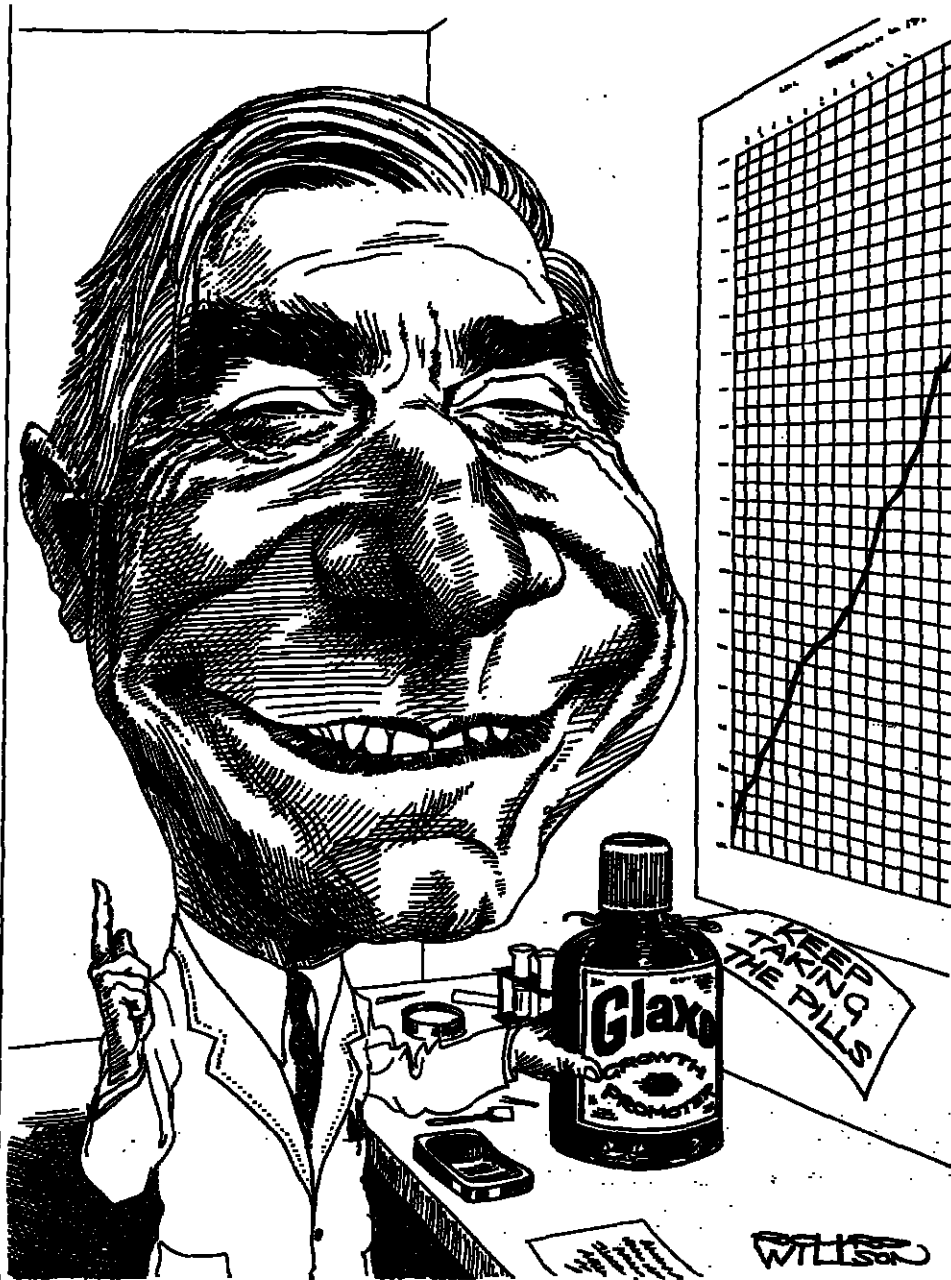
operator, could end up with 38 per cent of the field, but the British company's equity is likely to fall to just 19 per cent because of a clawback agreement with state-owned Ecopetrol. As a result, BP's net oil entitlement, after deduction of royalties of 20 per cent, falls to just 15.2 per cent of gross production before tax.

Government taxes are estimated at 12 per cent, while BP will be obliged to sell oil to domestic refineries, receiving 25 per cent of the proceeds in Colombian pesos, a currency that has an inflation rate of more than 30 per cent. Strauss Turbulla has estimated exploration costs at \$40 million.

So although Cuisiana could increase BP's current liquid reserve base by between 2.7 per cent and 8 per cent, Strauss Turbulla gives a warning of a danger that the value will never exceed \$4 per barrel and will actually have a dilutive effect.



Simon: cautious



Medicine for continued growth: Sir Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo

# Glaxo in good health

SIR Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo, is one company head who will be reporting higher profits in the current season. Attention, however, will focus on what new drugs Sir Paul has to offer to replace Zantac, the anti-ulcer treatment that pushed Glaxo into the £1 billion profits club (Philip Pangalos writes).

Stewart Adkins, pharmaceuticals analyst at Lehman Brothers, expects Glaxo to report, on Thursday, that profits for the year to end-June rose from £1.16 billion to £1.22 billion, in spite of foreign exchange problems, with dividends up from 22p to 25p per share. Market forecasts range up to £1.27 billion.

The driving force behind the group's profits advance will again be Zantac, which accounts for more than half Glaxo's turnover and is the world's biggest-selling drug. Zantac is expected to enjoy growth of about 15 per cent, although there has been a slowdown in the rate of its growth. Losec, a rival anti-ulcer drug made by Astra, of Sweden, recently showed growth of 120 per cent and may see its market share increase at Zantac's expense.

Attention will also focus on Sercevent, Glaxo's anti-asthma drug, which will make its maiden contribution, and Becotide, another anti-asthma drug. News will also be awaited on the progress of Zofran, the anti-emetic, which is consid-

ered by many to be one of Glaxo's key medicines of the future. Ondansetron, sold under the trade name of Zofran, will be used to combat nausea and vomiting, which are common side-effects of chemotherapy. Zofran is expected to contribute about £70 million to sales this time,

although analysts expect this to reach \$500 million by 1994. Imigran, the anti-migraine drug that recently received approval, will not make a contribution this time, but it is expected to make \$100 million in the current period.

Reporting this week, page 24

## DEFINED 5 YEAR YIELDS PER ANNUM OF

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# Estonia kroons a golden overture

By COLIN NARBROUGH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Estonian State Bank, intent on adding monetary dependence to Estonia's newly won political freedom from the Soviet Union, is counting on Britain to return its share of the Baltic States' gold reserves by the end of this year.

The Estonian portion of the billion, deposited with the Bank of England when the Baltic states were annexed by Moscow in 1940, is to form a key element of the reserves needed to launch a new gold-backed Estonian currency, the kroon.

Rein Ottason, the Estonian State Bank governor, voiced confidence about the early return of 14 tonnes of Baltic gold left in trusts with the British authorities, in comments to *The Times*.

Although the British government sold the gold in 1967 as part of an Anglo-

Soviet deal, the Foreign Office underlined at the weekend that the agreement was never intended to preclude any claims from future independent Baltic states. "The government is open to applications for the gold," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Mr Ottason who has clashed on several occasions with the Estonian cabinet over economic and monetary policy, said the kroon will have to be gold based, as Estonia has no hard currency reserves.

In 1940, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania jointly deposited 24.2 tonnes of gold with the central banks of Britain, France, Sweden and America. That gold is now worth about £153 million. France is to give back its share.

Mr Ottason said the British share is "very necessary" for establishing the Estonian currency, part of which is

already printed. He expects a switch from the rouble in the next few months.

Talks with the Soviet Union about the "so-called common debt" would also have to cover gold and currency reserves, Mr Ottason said. The Baltic governments have countered Soviet demands for compensation for investments during the Soviet era with claims that the Baltic region is entitled to its share of all investment conducted since 1940 by the central government in Moscow. They are likely to retrieve independence largely free of debt, which would make it easier for them to borrow abroad.

Mr Ottason said that proposals for creating a new gold-based rouble, as the master currency for the Soviet republics, could be discussed, but would not deter Estonia, which was the richest of the Soviet republics in terms of earnings per capita, from creating its own money.



## Dutch proposals for two-speed monetary union face resistance

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

DREP divisions are likely to appear today when European Community finance ministers meet to consider a Dutch plan for two-speed monetary union in Europe.

The route to common currency and central bank is far from clear, with southern European nations balking at the prospect of EMU turning into a northern European superleague and a second division of economic basket-cases. Britain, for once, will not be seen as spoiling the EMU party. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, supports the Dutch plan, because it involves neither imposition of a single currency nor any coercion to move to the final "stage three".

The government broadly supports the Dutch idea that the most practical way to monetary union is to wait until the EC's six strongest economies have converged sufficiently for them to form a central bank, if they wanted to, probably late in the decade.

What worries the southern nations, however, is that the Dutch are working towards a system that would exclude nations, whether they liked it or not. The political problems of barring Italy, a G7 nation, from the first group of EC countries to embrace EMU need no underlining. Italy finds itself in trouble because it has little realistic chance of reducing its enormous public debt - 103

per cent of gross domestic product - in time to join the fast-track EMU nations.

With Britain left off for its political objections, the EMU super league lists Germany, Luxembourg, France, Denmark, The Netherlands and either Belgium or Spain as a possible sixth.

For a group of six to move forward under the Dutch plan, nations would have to bring their interest and inflation rates roughly into line, and would have to have public debt and budget deficits well under control. They would also have to have respected the narrow 2.25 per cent fluctuation band of the exchange-rate mechanism for at least two years.

On behalf of the wayward economies, Italy will argue that rather than have such a two-speed EMU, the correct path is for all EC nations to join stage three together, with derogations for those too weak to climb on board right away. That way, Italy argues, no one is in danger of missing the boat for good.

With this fundamental difference in approaches, and the requirement for unanimity in any vote, it seems extremely hopeful of the Dutch to suggest that a group of central bank governors, recruited from the strong economies only, could form a European Monetary Institute (EMI), a

central bank forerunner, as early as 1994.

Opposition to the Dutch plan will not just come from those in danger of missing out, but also from France, which still bankers after the original EMU plan: the definite creation of a European central bank in 1996.

The only thing, therefore, certain to emerge from today's meeting is that more meetings between finance ministers will be necessary throughout the autumn if agreement on the path to EMU can be reached at the intergovernmental conference in Maastricht in December. There is growing support, however, for the two-speed approach, with Germany, the economic linchpin of EMU, throwing in its lot with the Dutch last week. Furthermore, with the question of enlarging the EC now very much on the agenda, a two-speed union could accommodate new EC members.

A British official said: "There is some discussion on whether you could have two institutions running in parallel, with an EMI running the second-phases and taking on candidate countries in the wings."

The question now for the Dutch is how to work out a politically acceptable way of telling nations they can only get in the first phase on economic merit, and not as inflationary free-riders.



In his own fashion: Giorgio Armani intends to retain full control of his products

## Armani dresses down to A/X

FROM GILLIAN BOWDITCH IN MILAN

GIORGIO Armani, Italian head of the 730 billion lire (£330 million) fashion house, is moving downmarket with his latest venture, A/X, or Armani Exchange, a range of jeans and casual clothes, of which 80 per cent will retail for less than \$100.

Signor Armani would take issue with the term downmarket. "It's not cheap cheap," he says with some agitation. "It's basics". In comparison with the hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars customers pay for the top of his range, however, it is difficult not to think "downmarket".

Is the hitherto exclusive Signor Armani about to go the way of such fashion designers as Pierre Cardin and open licensing agreements with everyone from makers of babywear to bed linen? The Armani name already graces

many products. Cosmetics and home accessories may soon be added to the list.

Despite the proliferation of the Armani name, Signor Armani remains very much in control. He sanctions every garment, stipulates the distance between the hangers in his shops and individually checks each catwalk model's make-up. A/X will first appear in America before coming to Europe. Londoners may have to wait two years.

Signor Armani plays down diversification. The home accessories line is only a dream. He is rumoured to sleep on antique linen sheets and has no intention of allowing the Armani name to grace anyone else's pillowcases.

In an attempt to gain even greater control of his products, Signor Armani has taken equity stakes in a number of Italian manufacturing companies. The A/X venture is

being operated in conjunction with Simint, in which Signor Armani has taken a 20 per cent stake. He has also bought 51 per cent of Intai, the maker of Armani ties, and wholly owns Antinea, which makes the Emporio Armani women's clothing range.

Fifteen years after its creation by Signor Armani and a friend, the late Sergio Galeotti, the company, now wholly owned by Signor Armani, has net profits of about \$54 million. Turnover is down 4.5 per cent this year on last year because of the recession, but the company is cash generative, self-funding and debt-free. A/X should have a turnover of \$60 million next year and \$200 million in 1993, says Signor Armani.

While not ruling out a flotation, he says he does not need to raise capital and would "prefer to remain in control".

## Why bonds could stay attractive in the recovery

The next few months could be difficult for the gilt-edged market. Signs of economic recovery, together with issuance of £1.5 billion per month, will provide bears with enough evidence to be cautious. Bulls, on the other hand, will be able to point to a rapid fall in unit labour costs and headline inflation below 4 per cent. If it may be allowed to lean, rather than sit, on the fence I confess that my sympathies lie with the bulls. At the same time, I do not expect long gilt yields to drop much over the next few weeks.

Earlier this year we witnessed the US bond market's cautious reaction to the first signs of economic recovery there and I would expect a similar response here, particularly if it coincided with deteriorating budget and current account balances. The signs of an economic recovery, probably generated by the consumer, should soon become more widespread. Import data have already provided the first hard evidence that a turning point has been reached and we are approaching the magical 11 per cent mortgage rate that economic modellers regard as the starting pistol for house-hunters.

But that is no reason to be unduly cautious. The gilt market usually continues to perform well after recovery begins, since both interest rates and inflation go on falling. The difficulty for investors is that in these conditions the equity market will do better. Might it be different this time?

I think so, for two reasons. The first relates to the volatility of inflation, the second to the relative importance of secure income.

Given the changes to capital controls over time and the differences in credit rating, it is probably a coincidence that average long government bond yields for America, Germany and the UK over the past 190 years are within 0.5 per cent of one another. Trivial Pursuit compilers might care to note that the UK has the lowest average yield (4.6 per cent) and has experienced a higher average yield than Germany only in the past 20 years.

The UK's credit rating during the days of the Empire secured an average bond yield between 60 and 215 basis points below that in the US and 65 to 120 basis points below Germany's.

Commentators now forecasting UK bond yields below Germany's have history on their side but need to convince investors that relative credit ratings have changed markedly. All three markets, though, exhibit the same characteristics when it comes to the relationship between inflation and bond yields. Bonds are most likely to be positively related at times of price stability, not deflation. There have been more years of price inflation than deflation over the past 190 years but both see bond

yields higher than at times of price stability. Why do bond yields tend to rise at times of both higher inflation and deflation while remaining low in the middle?

One explanation is that these extremes reflect severe economic problems, so that investment even in top quality government bonds appears to involve more risk. Thus bonds must provide higher returns to be attractive. They do best in periods of relative price stability.

A rough for inflation at or just below 4 per cent this autumn, with a gradual rise to 4.5 per cent thereafter - the consensus view - does not amount to price stability. But the constraint of ERM membership provides the best hope for 20 years that inflation will be relatively stable. Price stability (which could be defined as +2 per cent inflation) might require a move to a 2.25 per cent band or even fixed parities within the ERM. That could happen, although probably only after an election. The hope of some degree of price stability seems unlikely to establish itself this side of an election.

The second reason why gilts might outperform equities this time relates to the attraction of a secure income. This distinctive feature of gilts could have more relevance in current conditions than for many years. Given that price stability might seem a distant hope rather than a realistic forecast, the most pessimistic inflation forecast for the next two or three years is around 6 per cent.

We arrive at that figure by subtracting the UK's real, productive growth rate from recent growth in money supply, making no allowance for changes in velocity. It is also the highest trend rate that could be imagined for the early stages of an economic recovery, barring unforeseeable external shocks. At current yields that would still provide a real return of 4 per cent.

Looking at shorter maturities, one-year money market yields provide highest-rate taxpayers with a return, after tax and after (likely) inflation, that is still positive. Both short and long real yields are therefore very high and hence attractive. They are particularly attractive given that equity payout ratios are not expected to rise in the early years of the recovery as companies try to strengthen balance sheets at the expense of dividend growth. Asset price inflation is also set to remain low given recent monetary growth rates.

In such an environment, yield becomes all-important. Current real income yields are therefore notably favourable. A balanced-risk approach for a British investor would be to concentrate on those stocks with the highest running yields and use the income for a steady equity-buying programme.

MICHAEL HUGHES  
BZW Strategy

## Britain opposes EC bank plans

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Treasury and the Bank of England will seek substantial changes to a proposed European Community banking directive at a meeting in Brussels this week. They fear that in its present form it could destroy the role of London merchant banks in underwriting securities.

The proposals for a directive on large exposures for banks, still in their first draft, would stop banks taking an exposure to individual transactions of more than a quarter of their capital to limit risk of failures. But the measure would prevent banks with relatively small capital from acting as lead underwriters to big securities issues.

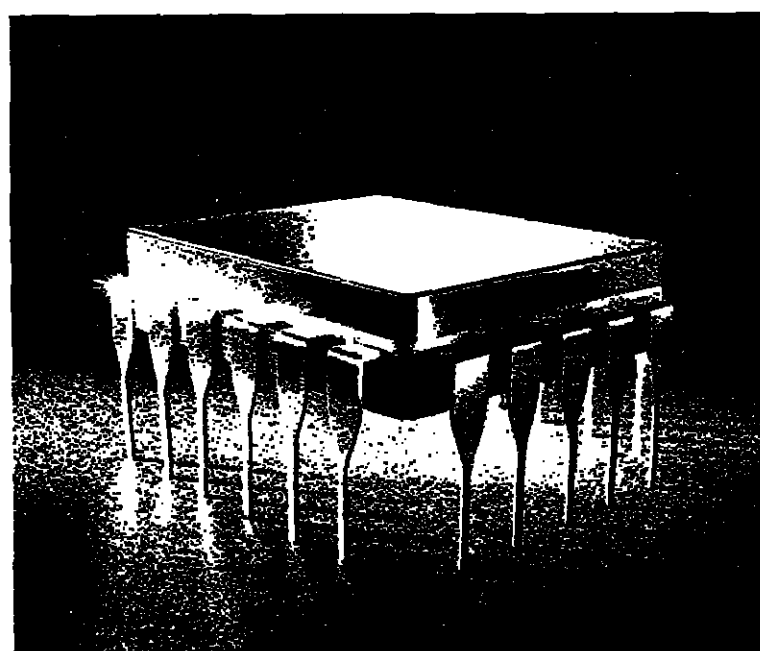
In Britain, the Bank of

England has operated a much tighter general limit of 10 per cent for individual risks in the wake of the Johnson Matthey Bankers affair. But it allows exceptions, including areas of special expertise such as underwriting, where there is little risk of total loss if an issue fails.

The government wants such flexibility to be written into the proposals before they become a directive.

Meanwhile, negotiators face a tougher task over deadlocked investment services directive proposals. A meeting planned for Wednesday has been cancelled, suggesting the Dutch government, which holds the EC presidency, has made no progress.

# CHIP



The world class high-technology companies of the Thames Valley.

The dynamic manufacturing industries of the South Coast.

Their continued success depends upon world-beating technology plus highly efficient electric production methods.

At Southern Electric, we're used to dealing with such demands.

Our Industrial Energy Efficiency Centre has helped over 1,000 companies enhance their products, and their productivity.

Whether you're looking to apply advanced electro-technology, or just save energy costs, you'll find that Southern Electric can supply a lot more than simply power.

# SHOP



The bright new retail and leisure centres of Southern England.

Two of the key business sectors that rival anything in Europe.

To maximise profits they're turning to energy-efficient heating, lighting, air conditioning, baking, refrigeration and building design.

After consultation with Southern Electric, many companies have reduced energy costs by over 60%, and also gained a superb working environment.

If you're in the Southern Electric area, or even just outside it, fax your business card to Neil Owen on 0628 584429. Or call Freephone 0800 100145. You'll find we can supply a lot more than simply power.

**SOUTHERN ELECTRIC**

**BUSINESSES FOR SALE**  
WILL APPEAR  
EVERY TUESDAY IN  
**THE TIMES**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
TEL: J HENDERSON 071-481 1982







## Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Johnston	Industrials E-K	
2	Allied Text	Textiles	
3	Multimedia Elect	Electronics	
4	Expamet	Industrials E-K	
5	Scott & New	Beverages	
6	Balmer (H F)	Beverages	
7	Clayton Son	Industrials A-D	
8	Haynes Publishing	Newspapers, Pub	
9	Whitney	Industrials S-Z	
10	Waco	Paper, Print, Adv	
11	Bromsgrove Inds	Industrials A-D	
12	Raine Ind	Building, Roads	
13	Lik Sciences	Chemicals	
14	Kilgallon Reson	Bank, Discount	
15	British Gas	Oil, Gas	
16	Br Bannock	Oil, Gas	
17	Clayton Son	Industrials A-D	
18	NMC Group	Paper, Print, Adv	
19	T & N	Industrials S-Z	
20	FR Group	Motors, Aircraft	
21	Br Land	Property	
22	Allied Colloids	Chemicals, Plastics	
23	Trinity Int	Newspapers, Pub	
24	Peck	Electronics	
25	Ocean Group	Industrials E-K	
26	Barrow	Industrials A-D	
27	Barrow	Drapery, Stores	
28	TOH	Industrials S-Z	
29	NFC	Transport	
30	Friendly Hotels	Hotels, Caterers	
31	Gold Greenland	Paper, Print, Adv	
32	Bard (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
33	Argill	Food	
34	Liaison	Industrials L-R	
35	Somerville (Jef)	Paper, Print, Adv	
36	Abbey	Building, Roads	
37	Jones & Shipman	Industrials E-K	
38	Proving	Building, Roads	
39	Dobson Park	Industrials A-D	
40	Alcon	Industrials A-D	
41	Caston 'A'	Drapery, Stores	
42	Aschbacher (Henry)	Bank, Discount	
43	McKay Sec	Property	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

There were no valid claims for the accumulated weekly Portfolio Platinum prize of £12,000. It will be added to next weekend's total.

BRITISH FUNDS				
Stock	Price	Change	%	Group
British	100	0	0	100
World	100	0	0	100

SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
Stock	Price	Change	%	Group
British	100	0	0	100
World	100	0	0	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
Stock	Price	Change	%	Group
British	100	0	0	100
World	100	0	0	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
Stock	Price	Change	%	Group
British	100	0	0	100
World	100	0	0	100

UNDATED				
Stock	Price	Change	%	Group
British	100	0	0	100
World	100	0	0	100

INDEX-LINKED				
Stock	Price	Change	%	Group
British	100	0	0	100
World	100	0	0	100

### BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	Change	%	Group
1000000 Abbey National	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Scotland	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Ireland	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of London	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Montreal	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of New York	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Paris	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Spain	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Sweden	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Switzerland	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Tokyo	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of West	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of America	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Canada	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of China	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of India	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Japan	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Korea	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Malaysia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Mexico	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of New Zealand	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Norway	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Portugal	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Russia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Singapore	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of South Africa	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Taiwan	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Thailand	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Philippines	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Virgin Islands	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Cayman Islands	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Falkland Islands	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Gibraltar	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Jersey	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Guernsey	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Isle of Man	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Channel Islands	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the British Virgin Islands	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Turks and Caicos Islands	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Anguilla	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Antigua and Barbuda	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Barbados	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Belize	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Bermuda	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Brunei	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Cambodia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Comoros	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Congo	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Cote d'Ivoire	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Equatorial Guinea	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Gabon	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Gambia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Ghana	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Guinea	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Guinea-Bissau	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Honduras	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Hungary	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Iceland	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the India	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Indonesia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Jamaica	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Jordan	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Kazakhstan	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Kenya	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Kuwait	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Kyrgyzstan	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Laos	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Latvia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Lithuania	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Luxembourg	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Malawi	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Maldives	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Mali	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Mauritania	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Mauritius	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Mexico	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Moldova	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Monaco	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Mongolia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Myanmar	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Namibia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Nepal	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Netherlands	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the New Guinea	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the New Zealand	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Nicaragua	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Niger	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Nigeria	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the North Macedonia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Norway	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Oman	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Pakistan	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Palau	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Panama	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Papua New Guinea	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Paraguay	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Peru	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Philippines	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Poland	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Portugal	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Romania	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Russia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Saudi Arabia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Senegal	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Sierra Leone	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Singapore	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Slovakia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Slovenia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the South Africa	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the South Korea	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Spain	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Sri Lanka	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Sweden	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Switzerland	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Taiwan	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Thailand	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Timor-Leste	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Togo	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Tonga	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Trinidad and Tobago	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Tunisia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Turkey	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Uganda	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Ukraine	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the United Kingdom	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the United States	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Uruguay	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Uzbekistan	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Vanuatu	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Venezuela	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Vietnam	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the West Bank	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Yemen	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Zambia	100	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Zimbabwe	100	0	0	100

# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Capitalisation and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)  
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 2. Dealings end September 13. Contango day September 16. Settlement day September 23.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
1000000 Abbey National	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Scotland	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Ireland	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of London	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Montreal	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of New York	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Paris	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Spain	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Sweden	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Switzerland	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Tokyo	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of West	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of America	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Canada	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of China	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of India	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Japan	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Korea	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Malaysia	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Mexico	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of New Zealand	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Norway	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Portugal	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Russia	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Singapore	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of South Africa	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Taiwan	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of Thailand	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Philippines	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Virgin Islands	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Cayman Islands	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Falkland Islands	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Gibraltar	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Jersey	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Guernsey	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Isle of Man	100	0	0	0	100
1000000 Bank of the Channel Islands	100	0	0	0	100



**TWO** companies in related sectors watched in fear as they watched the total value of the market for their products crash from £1 billion a year to less than £650 million almost overnight.

But instead of being seized by panic, Alan Cooper, which predominantly manufactured desks, and Mayfield, a supplier of office seating formerly known as Dauphin, decided to join forces and a £23 million merger was announced in July.

The merger between the companies, now known as Calderburn, took place via an agreed bid by Cooper for Mayburn, and came too late to have any impact on the companies' joint financial results for the half year to June 30, announced last week. But analysts agree that, once inte-



**Merged: James Blyth Currie (left) and Alec Waddicor**

gration is complete, Calderburn will be well placed to benefit from an upturn in the market, although Calderburn claims it has increased market share.

Pre-tax profits, on a merged basis, fell from £3.52 million before tax to £2.3 million on turnover down 10 per cent to £16.5 million. These results reflected the severe downturn

deterioration in demand. It seems likely that any increase in demand for office furniture will come towards the end of the economic upturn, which suggests that prospective investors could do well to wait until later this year or early next year to accumulate the shares, which are now trading at 158p.

Former Mayfield shareholders hold about 60 per cent of the enlarged group, with about 60 per cent of the equity in the hands of directors. The merged company began life with cash balances of £2.2 million, although this is expected to shrink to about £1.8 million as the costs of the merger make their presence felt on cash flow.

Andrew Holland of BZW believes that although short-term benefits will come through rationalisation the main growth will come from the cross-fertilisation of products and from through Mayfield's trading relationship with Dauphin GmbH of Germany, one of Europe's leading office seating companies, with sales worth £44 million last year.

Mayfield's specialist engineering business, which manufactures under-seat mechanisms and steel frames for desks, will benefit from any increase in sales within the enlarged group.

Separately the two companies did not have sufficient purchasing power or financial muscle to make a significant impact. But the enlarged group should make its presence felt, despite speaking for less than 5 per cent of the overall market.

On paper at least the logic of a merger of Alan Cooper and Mayfield is convincing. But it is not uncommon for marriages that are apparently made in heaven to end up in the divorce courts and time should be given for the board, under James Blyth Currie, the chairman, and Alec Waddicor, chief executive, to stamp their mark on the new company.

JONATHAN PRYNN

MARTIN BARROW

## UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	Volume	YTD
1.000.000	1.000.000	0.00	1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000
2.000.000	2.000.000	0.00	2.000.000	2.000.000	2.000.000	2.000.000	2.000.000
3.000.000	3.000.000	0.00	3.000.000	3.000.000	3.000.000	3.000.000	3.000.000
4.000.000	4.000.000	0.00	4.000.000	4.000.000	4.000.000	4.000.000	4.000.000
5.000.000	5.000.000	0.00	5.000.000	5.000.000	5.000.000	5.000.000	5.000.000
6.000.000	6.000.000	0.00	6.000.000	6.000.000	6.000.000	6.000.000	6.000.000
7.000.000	7.000.000	0.00	7.000.000	7.000.000	7.000.000	7.000.000	7.000.000
8.000.000	8.000.000	0.00	8.000.000	8.000.000	8.000.000	8.000.000	8.000.000
9.000.000	9.000.000	0.00	9.000.000	9.000.000	9.000.000	9.000.000	9.000.000
10.000.000	10.000.000	0.00	10.000.000	10.000.000	10.000.000	10.000.000	10.000.000
11.000.000	11.000.000	0.00	11.000.000	11.000.000	11.000.000	11.000.000	11.000.000
12.000.000	12.000.000	0.00	12.000.000	12.000.000	12.000.000	12.000.000	12.000.000
13.000.000	13.000.000	0.00	13.000.000	13.000.000	13.000.000	13.000.000	13.000.000
14.000.000	14.000.000	0.00	14.000.000	14.000.000	14.000.000	14.000.000	14.000.000
15.000.000	15.000.000	0.00	15.000.000	15.000.000	15.000.000	15.000.000	15.000.000
16.000.000	16.000.000	0.00	16.000.000	16.000.000	16.000.000	16.000.000	16.000.000
17.000.000	17.000.000	0.00	17.000.000	17.000.000	17.000.000	17.000.000	17.000.000
18.000.000	18.000.000	0.00	18.000.000	18.000.000	18.000.000	18.000.000	18.000.000
19.000.000	19.000.000	0.00	19.000.000	19.000.000	19.000.000	19.000.000	19.000.000
20.000.000	20.000.000	0.00	20.000.000	20.000.000	20.000.000	20.000.000	20.000.000
21.000.000	21.000.000	0.00	21.000.000	21.000.000	21.000.000	21.000.000	21.000.000
22.000.000	22.000.000	0.00	22.000.000	22.000.000	22.000.000	22.000.000	22.000.000
23.000.000	23.000.000	0.00	23.000.000	23.000.000	23.000.000	23.000.000	23.000.000
24.000.000	24.000.000	0.00	24.000.000	24.000.000	24.000.000	24.000.000	24.000.000
25.000.000	25.000.000	0.00	25.000.000	25.000.000	25.000.000	25.000.000	25.000.000
26.000.000	26.000.000	0.00	26.000.000	26.000.000	26.000.000	26.000.000	26.000.000
27.000.000	27.000.000	0.00	27.000.000	27.000.000	27.000.000	27.000.000	27.000.000
28.000.000	28.000.000	0.00	28.000.000	28.000.000	28.000.000	28.000.000	28.000.000
29.000.000	29.000.000	0.00	29.000.000	29.000.000	29.000.000	29.000.000	29.000.000
30.000.000	30.000.000	0.00	30.000.000	30.000.000	30.000.000	30.000.000	30.000.000
31.000.000	31.000.000	0.00	31.000.000	31.000.000	31.000.000	31.000.000	31.000.000
32.000.000	32.000.000	0.00	32.000.000	32.000.000	32.000.000	32.000.000	32.000.000
33.000.000	33.000.000	0.00	33.000.000	33.000.000	33.000.000	33.000.000	33.000.000
34.000.000	34.000.000	0.00	34.000.000	34.000.000	34.000.000	34.000.000	34.000.000
35.000.000	35.000.000	0.00	35.000.000	35.000.000	35.000.000	35.000.000	35.000.000
36.000.000	36.000.000	0.00	36.000.000	36.000.000	36.000.000	36.000.000	36.000.000
37.000.000	37.000.000	0.00	37.000.000	37.000.000	37.000.000	37.000.000	37.000.000
38.000.000	38.000.000	0.00	38.000.000	38.000.000	38.000.000	38.000.000	38.000.000
39.000.000	39.000.000	0.00	39.000.000	39.000.000	39.000.000	39.000.000	39.000.000
40.000.000	40.000.000	0.00	40.000.000	40.000.000	40.000.000	40.000.000	40.000.000
41.000.000	41.000.000	0.00	41.000.000	41.000.000	41.000.000	41.000.000	41.000.000
42.000.000	42.000.000	0.00	42.000.000	42.000.000	42.000.000	42.000.000	42.000.000
43.000.000	43.000.000	0.00	43.000.000	43.000.000	43.000.000	43.000.000	43.000.000
44.000.000	44.000.000	0.00	44.000.000	44.000.000	44.000.000	44.000.000	44.000.000
45.000.000	45.000.000	0.00	45.000.000	45.000.000	45.000.000	45.000.000	45.000.000
46.000.000	46.000.000	0.00	46.000.000	46.000.000	46.000.000	46.000.000	46.000.000
47.000.000	47.000.000	0.00	47.000.000	47.000.000	47.000.000	47.000.000	47.000.000
48.000.000	48.000.000	0.00	48.000.000	48.000.000	48.000.000	48.000.000	48.000.000
49.000.000	49.000.000	0.00	49.000.000	49.000.000	49.000.000	49.000.000	49.000.000
50.000.000	50.000.000	0.00	50.000.000	50.000.000	50.000.000	50.000.000	50.000.000
51.000.000	51.000.000	0.00	51.000.000	51.000.000	51.000.000	51.000.000	51.000.000
52.000.000	52.000.000	0.00	52.000.000	52.000.000	52.000.000	52.000.000	52.000.000
53.000.000	53.000.000	0.00	53.000.000	53.000.000	53.000.000	53.000.000	53.000.000
54.000.000	54.000.000	0.00	54.000.000	54.000.000	54.000.000	54.000.000	54.000.000
55.000.000	55.000.000	0.00	55.000.000	55.000.000	55.000.000	55.000.000	55.000.000
56.000.000	56.000.000	0.00	56.000.000	56.000.000	56.000.000	56.000.000	56.000.000
57.000.000	57.000.000	0.00	57.000.000	57.000.000	57.000.000	57.000.000	57.000.000
58.000.000	58.000.000	0.00	58.000.000	58.000.000	58.000.000	58.000.000	58.000.000
59.000.000	59.000.000	0.00	59.000.000	59.000.000	59.000.000	59.000.000	59.000.000
60.000.000	60.000.000	0.00	60.000.000	60.000.000	60.000.000	60.000.000	60.000.000
61.000.000	61.000.000	0.00	61.000.000	61.000.000	61.000.000	61.000.000	61.000.000
62.000.000	62.000.000	0.00	62.000.000	62.000.000	62.000.000	62.000.000	62.000.000
63.000.000	63.000.000	0.00	63.000.000	63.000.000	63.000.000	63.000.000	63.000.000
64.000.000	64.000.000	0.00	64.000.000	64.000.000	64.000.000	64.000.000	64.000.000
65.000.000	65.000.000	0.00	65.000.000	65.000.000	65.000.000	65.000.000	65.000.000
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Perhaps it is not surprising that the long flight to quality that has been taking place since the peak of the decade of enterprise continued apace this year.

Latest statistics from Standard & Poor's, the rating agency, show that investors in the bond markets are now at their most risk-averse since the crash of 1987. According to S&P, the interest rate

spread between Eurobonds rated AAA and those rated AA has risen throughout the year to about 30 basis points, around double the level seen in late 1990.

The differential between AA and A rated credit has also risen over the period and is now around 35 to 40 basis points.

In other words, increased demand for the bonds of strongest credit, such as British Gas, has, on average, reduced their relative interest rate to nearly three quarters of a percentage point a year less than bonds of companies with A rated credits such as Grand Metropolitan and Kingfisher. In March last year, it would have been less than half that figure.

Investors' desire to opt for safety is not confined to Euromarkets. In the American markets, the spreads have

been widening ever since the junk bond market turned sour two years ago. The differentials become even more dramatic further down the risk spectrum, where the junk spectre looms larger. For example, the gap between BB and BBB is 168 basis points, while there is a further 249 basis point differential for B rated credits.

As S&P points out, such massive spreads cannot be explained by relative creditworthiness alone.

A complex combination of factors is influencing investors' decisions, including a desire to concentrate on liquid issues. The net result is that the cost of capital for lower-rated issuers remains high, despite the trend towards lower interest rates. Investors' nerves are still not ready for risk-taking.



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## REPORTING THIS WEEK

## Lower orders likely to put Rolls-Royce into reverse

WITH the interim reporting season in full swing, figures from a number of blue-chip companies will continue to paint an eloquent but grim picture, confirming just how deep the recession is.

Rolls-Royce, the engineering and aerospace group headed by Lord Tombs of Brilles, chairman, and Sir Ralph Robins, chief executive, will suffer a substantial decline when it reports first-half profits on Thursday.

The reduction will in part reflect a combination of lower military orders and reduced civil aerospace demand from financially beleaguered airlines.

There will, no doubt, be much relief at Rolls-Royce after last Friday's news that the group had won its critical launch order for its new generation Trent engines on the Boeing 777 twinjet. The company won a £250 million contract from Thai Airways International, which dispelled some of the fears aroused two weeks ago, when British Airways broke with tradition and ordered engines for its 777s from General Electric of America.

Chris Avery at Smith New Court expects interim pre-tax profits to dive to £30 million, compared with £115 million, although the interim dividend should be maintained at 2.55p. Market forecasts range from break-even to a profit of £40 million.

## TODAY

Interim: British Vita, Candover Investments, Cavendish Group, are Halshaw Holdings, Fairway

Group, ISA International, Linseed, Perkins Foods, Sherwood Computer Services, William Sindell, Singapore Para Rubber Estates, Suter, USOC Investment Trust, Wilson (Connolly) Holdings.

Finals: Arcadian International, Close Brothers Group, Goodhead Group, Haynes Publishing Group. Economic statistics: Credit business (July), retail sales (July - final).

## TOMORROW

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, is expected to unveil interim pre-tax profits of £132 million (£142.3 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £130 million to £140 million.

Interim: Arjo Wiggins Appleton, James Beattie, Delta, Ferrum Holdings, Gaskell, Herring Son & Daw Holdings, Home Counties Newspapers, Lambert Hovarth Group, Merchants Trust, PCT Group, P.E. International, Michael Page Group, Persimmon, Pitard Garner, Robinson Brothers (Hydrex Green), Seavey Hotel, Scottish Haritable Trust, Severfield-Rieve, Shires Investment, Singer & Friedlander Group, TIS Range, Templeton, Galbraith & Hensberger.

Finals: Adco Group, Beazer, Cantors, John Haggis, Macro 4, McKiegan Group. Economic statistics: Producer price index (August - provisional), international banking statistics (second quarter).

## WEDNESDAY

First-half pre-tax profits at British Aerospace, which is chaired by Professor Sir Roland Smith, are expected to decline by 32 per cent to £100 million, against £146 million last time, according to County NatWest WoodMac. The figures are likely to be affected by the impact of the recession on cars and business aircraft. County is looking for earnings



Caution: Sir Roland warned Aerospace investors

per share to fall by 34 per cent to 23.7p (35.6p), although an increased dividend of 9.5p against 8.9p per share is forecast. Market profit forecasts range from £80 million to £118 million.

At the time of the annual meeting, Sir Roland warned shareholders that this year's interim profits would be lower than last year's, due to the recessionary forces and reduced military spending.

News is eagerly awaited on historic trading and future prospects at Rover, which has confirmed it is losing money as sales of new cars in the Uni-

ted Kingdom have slumped. In addition, the market will be keeping a close eye on whether the much talked of rights issue materialises.

Jonathan Sheehan at Credit Lyonnais Laing expects Praxair Corporation, which is Britain's biggest investment group and is headed by Sir Brian Corby, chairman, and Mick Newmarch, chief executive, to report first-half profits of £150 million (£126.7 million). An interim dividend of 3.9p (3.5p) is forecast.

The advance in Praxair's profits will partly reflect the



Sweet taste: Cadbury forecast to rise for Sir Graham

absence of estate agency losses.

Market profit forecasts range from £110 million to £170 million. Life profits should be slightly ahead.

Richard Allan at Kleinwort Benson has pencilled in first-half pre-tax profits of £111 million (£104.7 million) for Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft drinks group chaired by Sir Graham Day.

Earnings per share are forecast marginally higher at 9.9p (9.8p), with the interim dividend forecast at 3.2p (3p). Market forecasts range from

£105 million to £111 million. Trading in the first half has been tough for Cadbury. Mr Allan says that the United Kingdom soft drinks market was weak in the first half, affected by the poor weather and the recession, with vol-

umes in Britain expected to be down by about 10 per cent, while "United Kingdom confectionery has not been the most buoyant market."

The second half, however, should benefit from the weather and helpful exchange rate comparisons. Earnings per share are forecast marginally higher at 9.9p (9.8p), with the interim dividend forecast at 3.2p (3p). Market forecasts range from

£105 million to £111 million. Trading in the first half has been tough for Cadbury. Mr Allan says that the United Kingdom soft drinks market was weak in the first half, affected by the poor weather and the recession, with vol-

Schwappes, Caird Group, Caledonian, Caparo Industries, Celsion Industries, Costain Group, Enterprise Oil Group, Erith, Gowling, Harbours & Crossfield, J. Hewitt & Son (Fenton), Island Foods, Inverclyde, Inverclyde Group, Kilmory Small Companies Investment Trust, Linton Park, John Mowlem & Co, Nurdin & Pascoe, Ocean Group, Padang Sengul Holdings, Plaxton Group, Prudential Corporation.

Finals: Molyneux Estates, Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, JF Philippine Fund.

Economic statistics: United Kingdom balance of payments: 1991 edition (CSO pink book) (1990), overseas earnings of the City (1990), United Kingdom balance of payments (second quarter).

## THURSDAY

United Biscuits, the biscuits, snacks and frozen foods group, is expected to turn in first-half pre-tax profits slightly ahead at £84 million (£83 million), according to Watling Securities. Market forecasts range from £83.5 million to £87 million.

The biscuits side is expected to increase profits thanks to recent continental European acquisitions, while the KP snacks division should have made good first-half progress. However, Ross Young will continue to face a difficult frozen food market.

Net income at RTZ, the international mining and metals group, is expected to decline to £160 million (£269 million) in the first half, according to Charles Pick at Nomura Research Institute. The figures will reflect adverse currency moves along with lower global demand for base metals and other commodities, and declining prices. Market forecasts range from

£150 million to £187 million. Provisions could push interim pre-tax losses at Legal & General Group to as much as £100 million (£41.5 million profit), according to Credit Lyonnais Laing.

Market forecasts range from losses of £50 million to £100 million.

Interim: Associated British Ports, William Baird, Blatchley Motor Group, Brammer, W. Canning, Cannon Street Investments, Cassini Property Group, Ennes, Estates & General, Great Southern Group, Haden MacLellan Holdings, Harbours Group, Highlands & Lowlands, John Laing, Legal & General, MTL Instruments Group, Mandarin Oriental International, Bernard Matthews, Micro Focus Group, Northern Engineering Industries, Portals Holdings, RTZ Corporation, Rathbone Brothers, Refuge Group, Rolls-Royce, Swallowtail, T. T. Group, United Biscuits Holdings.

Finals: Coronation Syndicate, Glaxo Holdings, Precious Metals Trust, S. J. Sainsbury, Two-forty United Collieries.

Economic statistics: United Kingdom national accounts: 1991 edition (CSO blue book) (1990), CSI survey of distributive trades (August), labour market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (August), provisional: average earnings (August), construction output (second quarter - provisional).

Philip Pangalos

Interim: Aspis Group, Barry Stanger, Dairy Farm International Holdings, Eys (Wimborne), Euro-pan Project Investment Trust, Flixbox Group.

Finals: Thomas Walker.

Economic statistics: Useful steel production (August), retail prices index and tax price index (August), construction output (second quarter - provisional).

## FRIDAY

Interim: Aspis Group, Barry Stanger, Dairy Farm International Holdings, Eys (Wimborne), Euro-pan Project Investment Trust, Flixbox Group.

Finals: Thomas Walker.

Economic statistics: Useful steel production (August), retail prices index and tax price index (August), construction output (second quarter - provisional).

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# NUS targets the marginals

A campaign to ensure that students vote at the next election could unseat some Tory MPs. Damian Whitworth reports

Education is generally agreed to be one of the topics that will decide the general election. For 70 MPs, however, it may be the issue that makes or breaks their political careers. In a campaign intended to convince MPs to support student demands for a better deal for themselves and higher education generally, the National Union of Students (NUS) aims to target marginal seats where the MP's majority is smaller than the student population.

The campaign, Target 70, will be launched this month to put student demands to all political parties, but Conservative MPs with small majorities have the most to fear. The Student Charter at the heart of the campaign will ask all parties to adopt its policy on issues affecting students, such as the restoration of benefits, better housing and a firm stand against private tuition fees. But the main demand is for the repeal of the government's student loans legislation, which is already Labour and Liberal Democrat policy. Constituencies on which the campaign will concentrate contain some of Britain's most active student populations. Oxford and Cambridge both have marginal seats but the student vote has always been unpredictable. Target 70 is likely to get a better response elsewhere.

In Leeds, for example, there are approximately 30,000 students, of whom more than 12,000 are at the university. The Conservative MP for Leeds North-West, Dr Keith Hampton, has a 5,201 majority but most students at the university and the polytechnic live in his constituency. The university union is one of Britain's biggest and richest and has run a campaign to register students to vote for many months.

At Warwick university, almost 3,000 students live in the Coventry South-West constituency, where John Butcher, the Conservative

MP, is defending a majority of only 3,210. Alan Knott, the union president, says the union will campaign hard to persuade students to register to vote and will highlight what the parties offer students. He believes the pressure will be on Mr Butcher. "There are enough students in Mr Butcher's constituency to make things very difficult for him," he says.

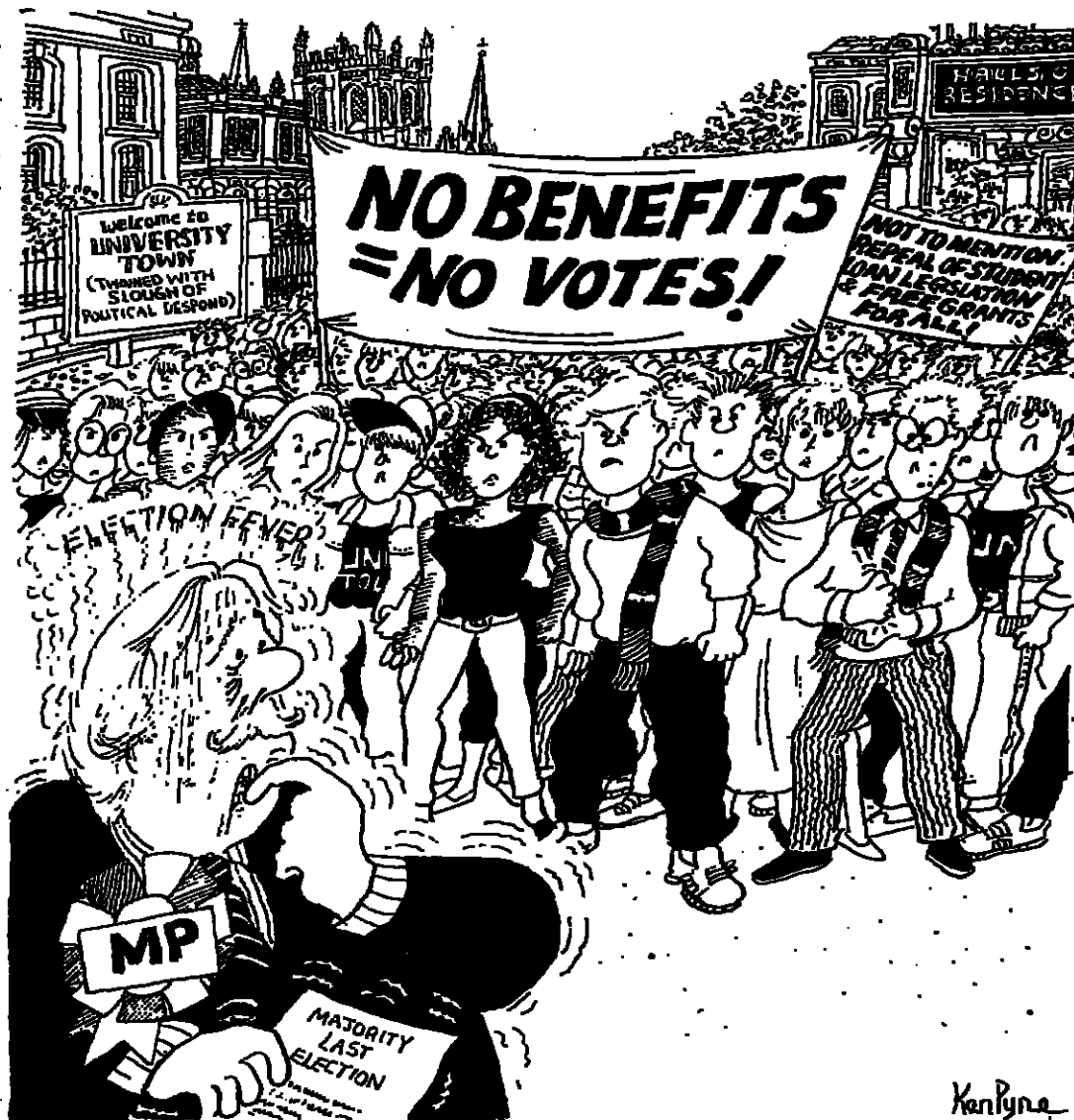
One of the most prominent MPs with a marginal seat is also likely to be one of the most vulnerable to a high student turnout. Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, has a majority of less than 1,500 in Bath but there are more than 8,000 students, about half of them at the university.

Mr Patten clearly realises the importance of the student vote. "He comes up three times a term to hold surgeries on campus, where we outline our concerns," says Keith Murray, Bath university's communications officer and the area convenor for the NUS. "I think this is going to be a very big issue at the election and we are having a big campaign to get people to vote."

Richard Harwood, the Conservative students' national officer, does not see the student vote as a threat. He says: "The Conservatives have always had a substantial vote in general elections. We have good policies for students - expanding higher education and good economic and housing policies - that are important for students when they graduate."

He denies that the introduction of student loans could now prove fatal for Conservative MPs in their constituencies. "Student loans were more of an issue before they came in," Mr Harwood says. "They are something that has become generally accepted."

Andrew Smith, Labour's higher education spokesman, whose Oxford East constituency has a high concentration of students, disagrees. "Students can have a decisive impact in an election," he says. "I am convinced that our positive policies for higher education and the loans scheme, and students' experiences of Conservative cuts, will combine to ensure that we shall win that vote."



Although the NUS has had a series of Labour presidents, it does not overtly campaign for any party. Stephen Twigg, the president, says the election would be used to place student demands at the top of the political agenda. Every party would be pressed on issues important to students.

Mr Harwood is certain, however, that Target 70 will be a campaign against the Conservatives. "This is the National Organisation of Labour Students leadership in the NUS putting forward policy not much different from the Labour party's and using taxpayers' money to do so. This is another strong piece of evidence why the present policies of the NUS are indefensible and why we need voluntary membership of student unions."

Edna McCarthy, the general secretary of Leeds university union, is also concerned about the campaign. "It is a good idea to have a campaign to get higher education on the electoral agenda," she says. "However, I am worried that it will be abused and will become a campaign for the Labour party. If that happens and the Conservatives get in again, I am sure they will not forget it."

In the past, students have shown themselves to be apathetic about voting, and many have exercised their right to vote at home. Most previous attempts to mobilise them as a political force have failed as a result. Yet no previous election has come at a time when students have been dealing with the Student Loans Company, have lost welfare benefits and are paying poll tax.

Possibly most students will vote on the same issues as everyone else at the election. As most will be first-time voters who have known nothing but Conservative government, they are inevitably an unknown quantity.

If the NUS campaign succeeds in getting a high turnout on polling day, however, this could be the election in which students begin to exercise the political clout that their numbers should produce.

## A win for the Welsh

TWO years of conflict came to an end when Wales's first grant-maintained school, Cwmcam comprehensive in Gwent, opened its doors last week. Parents and governors voted in favour of grant-maintained status when Gwent county council said that it wanted to close the school to reduce some of its 10,000 surplus places.

Gwent took the Welsh Office to the High Court, claiming that the 300-pupil school was educationally unviable and unable to deliver the national curriculum and that the only reason the government gave the school grant-maintained status was because Cwmcam is in the Islwyn constituency of Neil Kinnock, the opposition leader.

Gwent lost and pupils were welcomed by Frank Elliott, the new headteacher, and a new complement of 24 teachers, the school's previous 36 staff all having left at the end of last term. Mr Elliott says: "The number of lessons is being increased from 40 to 42 a week, and we are offering three modern languages. Unlike many of our neighbouring schools, we are introducing Welsh immediately and not waiting until it becomes compulsory under the national curriculum."

## Fair chance

THE University of London Careers Advisory Service is linking with *The Times* and the *Sunday Times* to launch Directions Week at the Business Design Centre, in Islington, north London, from June 30 to July 4 next year. The week will start with the service's graduate recruitment fair, now in its sixth year, to be followed from July 3 by the schools fair, aimed exclusively at A-level students going on to higher education or into employment.

Andrew Knight, the executive chairman of *The Times*, says: "The education, employment, training and future of our young people is a priority item on the political agenda. Directions Week will without doubt become the biggest and best recruitment fair of its kind in Britain."

Brian Steptoe, the director of the service, says: "Last year's

fair attracted more than 17,000 graduates and 220 employers and is the only all-graduate summer fair to be held in London. This will continue to be a London university event, supported nationally by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Service, but it will be greatly enhanced by the backing of *The Times*."

## Aid challenge

SCHOOLCHILDREN have been asked to raise £500,000 to help Romania's orphanages in a national School Challenge. Schools entering have the chance to win prizes that include a brand new minibus for the "school of 91". There will be special awards for individual achievements.

## Lucky Alexei



SETTLING in among the new boys at The Downs School, Malvern, Worcestershire, is Alexei Nesterov, a seven-year-old from Voronezh, Russia, while his sister Anna, 11, has enrolled at Adcote School, Shropshire. Local businessmen are helping with the fees of about £5,000 a term.

British parents looking for an independent school for their children will be able to take their pick of more than 100 schools at ISIS 91, an exhibition organised by the Independent Schools Information Service from October 11 to 13 at the Business Design Centre.

## Foreign affairs

AS THE recent school inspectors' report on foreign languages pointed out, not only is there a shortage of teachers, but many of them feel under-qualified. Weekend courses for those teaching French and German to 11 to 14-year-olds are being held at Worcester college of higher education. The £475 courses over four weekends run from November to March.

DAVID TYTLER

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Open Days for those wishing to visit the School will be held 20th September for Boarders, and 13th November for Day pupils.

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# Coming up trumps Down Under

Anne Woodham talks to students who spent a 'gap' year helping in Australian schools

Tam Richmond cannot bear to come home. Emily Powell-Smith wishes she were still there, and Phil Buckley says it was the best thing he has ever done. Exchanging one school for another after A-levels could seem too much of a good thing, but not when it includes a place in the staff common room on the other side of the world.

Miss Powell-Smith, who is 19, spent six months as a "kind of big sister" in a mixed boarding college in Alice Springs, Australia. To her, it was a powerful demonstration of the benefits of the "gap year", when students with university places take a year off to enlarge their experience.

She has matured into a confident young adult who in October will study speech pathology at Manchester university.

St Philip's college, where she worked, is both a fee-paying day school for day pupils aged 11 to 17 and a boarding house for children as young as six, who have been sent from remote sheep and cattle stations to attend schools in the

town. Miss Powell-Smith's bedsit was in the girls' wing. "Although I was there to act as a house parent, I was also one of them," she says. "Miss Powell-Smith soon changed to Miss Emily."

In school, she taught French conversation and helped in home economics, art, mathematics, English and physical education. She had fun helping to organise the school's first musical, editing the school magazine and camping in the bush.

In the end, saying goodbye was hard. "I had grown very close to them all," Miss Powell-Smith says.

Scots college, Sydney, is not the outback, but is different enough from Manchester grammar for Mr Buckley, aged 19, to talk of culture shock. "Scots is very rah-rah," he says. "At speech day, the boys sing the school song and cheer the dux [top pupil] of the school."

He and Tam Richmond, from Abingdon college, travelled to Australia together and were dispatched to Glenangary, the school's outdoor education centre 100 miles from Sydney. Here, pupils aged 14 and 15 are "toughened up"



Outback adventure: Tristan Bevan, right, working with the owner of Cuddell sheep station near Narrandera, New South Wales. Mr Bevan is due to start at Portsmouth polytechnic next month

*'I grew close to them all'*

Emily Powell-Smith

for six months. Mr Buckley was intrigued at what a regime of physical activity - rock-climbing, hiking, scuba diving, canoeing and a diet short on chocolates and fizzy drinks could do for unfit youths from monied homes.

"I was a prefect at school, but the only paid job I'd had was part-time work in a sports centre," Mr Buckley says. "At Glenangary I found I could be responsible for 15 boys on a mountain-bike expedition." Routine tasks included cutting the grass, erecting

fences, supervising prep and even some teaching.

In the summer holidays the young Englishmen took jobs on large farms. Mr Buckley, who returned home in July to start a language degree at Newcastle, says: "It was a fabulous year. I've learnt independence, I've developed myself and I've come back better equipped for university."

Mr Richmond is so smitten with Australia that he has opted for another stint at Scots college.

All three students were helped by Gap Activities Projects (Gap), which organises placements for young people in their "gap" year.

What began as informal arrangements with schools in Commonwealth countries now extends to charitable institutions in India, Malaysia, Japan and Mexico. Schools, however, still

account for most of the 500 annual placements.

John Spencer, Gap's assistant director, recommends that students apply in the first term of their final A-level year. Applicants are interviewed and their school records examined. If accepted, they must raise enough money for their return fare, insurance of £15 a month, emergencies and Gap's £250 fee. Their employers abroad are expected to provide lodging and pocket money.

Independent schools often make their own arrangements with similar schools abroad. Canberra grammar school, for example, has had links with schools such as Wellington, Oundle, Marlborough and Radley for more than 20 years.

Gap Activity Projects, GAP House, 44 Queens Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4BB (0734 594914)

# School inspectors under scrutiny

The Conservatives and Labour want to change the way in which schools are assessed, but their approaches differ

Whoever wins the general election, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools (HMI) is going to see the biggest shake-up in its 150 years. If the Conservatives win, it will find itself in competition with private companies. If Labour's Jack Straw moves into the education department, most of the 500 inspectors will be working alongside the 2,500 local authority inspectors.

Final details of the government's proposals, giving state schools £75 million to spend on the inspectors of their choice, will be announced by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, this month alongside the Parents' Charter. Under the government's plans school governors will be able to choose their inspection teams, which must include lay members. Private businesses approved by the education department will be able to compete for the inspection contracts.

Mr Straw says: "Public confidence in schools inspection will be undermined if schools are seen to be able to pick the jury to judge their cause. Heads and governors of schools in dodgy circumstances will look around for inspectors who will come up with the answers they want. The rights of parents and children will be undermined."

The claim is rejected by David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers: "It is absolute rubbish to say schools will be tempted into going for cheap, inferior inspections," Mr Hart says. "That is insulting the intelligence of heads and governors, but there will be people who have not got the experience or expertise offering inadequate services."

Mr Hart accepts it will be necessary to bring in independent agencies to cope with the extra workload caused by the regular inspections promised by both parties, but says: "There is a danger of

cowboys entering the field offering certification. Who is to certify the new inspectors and what kind of inspection will they offer?"

Mr Clarke believes the changes will give greater power to heads, parents and governors. "Simple, clear reports will be supplied to every parent, bringing far more information on the quality of local schools," he says. "Governors will be required to publish these inspection reports and take the necessary action. The inspectors will operate to approved national standards."

Mr Clarke estimates that schools will have £2,500 in their budgets to pay for a ten-day inspection, a figure ridiculed by Mr Hart. "Kenneth Clarke is

living in cloud cuckoo land if he thinks £250 a day can buy a school inspection. He will have to pay a great deal more if he wants a decent job," he says. Mr Hart also questions Labour's plans to marry HMI with the local inspectors. "There is an enormous variation in the quality of inspection at local level," he says. "To find enough inspectors to provide regular inspections of the 25,000 state schools, let alone

the independent schools, you would have to turn advisory teachers into inspectors overnight. You cannot do that because they need different skills."

Mr Hart doubts that lay people have a leading role to play in school inspections but Mr Clarke finds unlikely support from Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, who says: "We do not reject the idea of lay people. They may have a contribution, but they are not educationists and they are not inspectors, so their views must not be allowed to dominate. Private inspectors are going to have to make a profit so they may end up playing to their customers."

DAVID TYTLER



Differences: Mr Clarke and, below, Mr Straw



A new seven-volume children's encyclopaedia coming out this week is long on facts but short on imagination

"ENCYCLOPAEDIA," says Mary Worrall, the editor of *The Oxford Children's Encyclopaedia*, "means all-round education... the sum total of all human knowledge." Then, with something like a sigh, she agrees that this is too much to fit into her allotted space: five volumes, from *Aborigines* to *Zulus*, a sixth volume of biographies from *Abraham* to the former Chinese premier *Chou En-lai*, and a seventh volume containing an analytical index and some assorted lists, such as the prime ministers of New Zealand.

Despite the editor's problems of fitting human knowledge into her box of books, public expectations of the new encyclopaedia, which is published this week, are bound to be high. Encyclopaedias are sources of wisdom, and those edited for children are deemed to be the one indispensable component in a juvenile library. After all, human knowledge filtered for the young must surely be a manageable

# Perhaps not for Mee

commodity, and "looking things up in the encyclopaedia" may be, as Miss Worrall suggests, a starting point in self-education.

Certainly, pedagogy figures large in the mechanics of this compendium. Educationists abound among its 177 contributors and consultants, and some of them investigated children to try to ascertain not only what things they might want to look up, but also what rubrics they would expect to find them under. As a result, there is a contents breakdown that occupies about 230 columns of index, and a body of articles that are garnished with illustrations, diagrams, summary notes, and "see also" references.

Old favourites such as "steam engines", beloved since the days of Arthur Mee,

mingle with terms such as "menstruation", which might have caused that former children's encyclopaedia editor to raise an eyebrow.

Unsurprisingly, the preliminary research for the encyclopaedia among children yielded the discovery that there was "a lot of interest in science and technology", and this has led to a rigorous analysis and organisation of the scientific articles.

The research also showed vagueness among children concerning matters which had to do with history, politics and the arts, and these are the topics that have proved editorially elusive as well. Problems arising over the balance between subjects and the consistency of explanations are not easily

solved. The real failing, though, is one of imagination. There is no imaginative awareness of the subjects and of what will bring them alive for children, rather than pounding out a few miscellaneous facts - and, regrettably, that attitude characterises all the entries on history, literature and the arts that I have read.

What good does it do to Tess of the D'Urbervilles to call her "An innocent girl destroyed by a villainous lover and a series of dreadfully unlucky mishaps"?

The truth of the matter is that despite public expectations, an encyclopaedia on this scale for eight to 13-year-olds is bound to fail. Parts of it, of course, will do a worthy job but much of it will frustrate rather than satisfy.

BRIAN ALDERSON

*The Oxford Children's Encyclopaedia is published on Thursday; seven volumes in a slipcase (Oxford University Press: £100)*

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Due to continued expansion of the School of ABE (Accounting, Business and Economics) an opportunity has arisen for an academic with experience in either the University or Polytechnic sector to join our small, multi-disciplinary Business Studies team.

In addition to teaching all areas of marketing at both introductory and advanced levels on the BSC Business Studies and future MBA programmes, research interests will be actively encouraged.

Ideally applicants will be post doctoral students with a particular interest in one aspect of marketing such as Marketing Research or Marketing Information Systems. However, experience of working with a commercial marketing department either as a specialist and/or manager would also be an advantage, together with an interest in curriculum development and consultancy.

The University offers a stimulating, international environment which is due to the popularity of our two year degree programme with overseas students.

Internal enquiries may be directed to the first instance to Jim Rafferty, the BSC course Chairman, or Douglas Stoddard.

Further particulars can be obtained from The Assistant Registrar, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG to whom applications (with copies) with a curriculum vitae including the names of three referees, should be sent not later than 27 September 1991.

**The University of Buckingham**  
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## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**KINGS COLLEGE LONDON**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
**School of Law**  
**Chair of Business Law**

Applications are invited for a Chair in Business Law in the School of Law, available from 1st January 1992 or as soon as possible thereafter. The Chair is open to candidates with a proven record in the field of Business Law, with particular emphasis on Corporate Finance and Taxation Law in the UK and EC. The appointee will have a strong background in teaching and research, and will be expected to provide academic leadership in building upon research strengths in the School, as well as conducting innovative programmes in the above legal fields.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Mr Geoff Culbert, Deputy Personnel Officer, on 071 873 2288 or by fax 071 873 2388.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 4th October 1991.

Equality of Employment opportunity is College policy.

UNIVERSITY OF YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE  
LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited for a lectureship in the Department of Computer Science which is available immediately. Applicants can have research interests in any area of Software Engineering, but those with interests in Data Bases and Information Systems would be particularly welcome. This appointment may be made on either part A or B of the lecturer's salary scale.

At present the Lecturer Grade A salary scale is £12,690 - £17,593 per annum, and the Lecturer Grade B scale is £10,328 - £12,627 per annum. The post carries entitlement to USS.

Informal enquiries may be made by telephone to Professor Wand, Dr Hitchcock or Dr Mander (0904) 432722.

Six copies of applications with full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent to the Personnel Officer, University of York, Heslington, YORK YO1 5DD by Friday 4 October 1991. Further details are available (Telephone: 0904 432152). Please quote the advertisement reference number 2/5321.

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE AND CHRIST CHURCH OXFORD**

The Governing Bodies of St John's College and Christ Church propose to elect in cooperation eight supplementary Junior Research Fellows - two in Arts subjects and two in Science subjects at each College - according to an agreed rota of subjects. The fellowships will be tenable from 1st October 1992.

The Fellows must engage in original research and may, with the permission of the appropriate Governing Body, undertake a limited amount of teaching.

Application forms, together with further particulars and details of the rota of subjects, may be obtained from the College Secretary, St John's College, Oxford, OX1 1JP, to whom applications (two copies) should be sent by 4th October 1991.

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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FOR AWARD IN SEPTEMBER 1992  
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13+ Academic Scholarships via Prep School Entry  
For boys and girls under 14 years of age on 1st September 1992.  
Up to 30 scholarships and bursaries  
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13+ Academic Scholarships for Non-Prep School Candidates  
For boys and girls under 14 years of age on 1st September 1992.  
Up to 30 scholarships and bursaries  
**16+ Maths and Science Scholarships**  
For boys and girls sitting GCSE in 1992.  
Up to 25 scholarships and bursaries

**Vocational Scholarships**  
For candidates aged between 13 and 16 years on 1st September 1991  
Institutes will be held in February 1992  
Up to 15 scholarships and bursaries

**Art Scholarships**  
For candidates aged 13+ and 16+  
3 scholarships

**U-Boatmen's Bursaries**  
For boys and girls aged 13+ and 16+  
Candidates should show good all-round academic ability, further potential in cultural and/or athletic activities will be taken into account.  
Bursaries range from 10% to 30% of full fees, where need can be established, remissions may be extended up to 100% of fees.

Further details from: The Tutor for Admissions, Edgarley Hall, Glastonbury, Somerset BA16 0HJ (Ref: Sch 14A)

Candidates should be over 7 years and under 11 years on 1st September 1991  
Entries close on 7th October 1991  
Open Day, Saturday 2nd November 1991

Assessment takes place on Saturday, 16th November 1991

Further details from: The Tutor for Admissions, Edgarley Hall, Glastonbury, Somerset BA16 0HJ (Ref: Sch 14A)

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NATO nationals are invited to submit a full curriculum vitae (in English) to:

Personnel Officer,  
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The Hague,  
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to arrive not later than 30 September 1991 quoting reference: ST-92/93.

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Well-beaten Soviet team still manages to expose flaws among the foundations of Carling's victors

## England need to be more ruthless

England XV ..... 53  
USSR ..... 0By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT WOULD be hard to criticise a side that posts a half-century of potshots in an international tournament. It is not the fact that England themselves have become that self-critical. In preparing for Saturday's game against the Soviet Union at Twickenham, they wanted to be ruthless in their execution and that, despite seven goals, two tries and a penalty goal to nil, they were not.

Ruthlessness has seldom been a notable English quality when it comes to sport and, on an energy-sapping day five weeks after their last gathering as a squad, there was a considerable amount of ruthlessness in their display. They were not, perhaps, prepared for such a forthright forward effort from the Soviet side; an hour had passed before they gained control of the set pieces and they were never able to completely subdue the lively Molchanov in the loose.

But their game lacked clarity in the tackle and ruck. "We had problems in Australia with our support play and the ball on the ground," Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said. "The last three or four practice sessions have been spent trying to get support players to stay on their feet. But if they did that against the Soviets they were going to lose the ball because everyone was flying around so much."

"Some of the pace and support work was good but we were a bit sluggish sometimes at the lineout and the tackle situation was a bit chaotic. When people went to ground it was a bit of a shambles." In Gary Rees, however, England have a player whose continuity works better the nearer he is to the ground and no one worked harder, or more effectively, than he.

It was not, though, such a good day for his Nottingham colleague, Simon Hodgkinson. He was able to inject little to the back division and a query was placed over his participation in the World Cup when he had to be carried off early in the second half with a badly-sprained left



Bandage aid: Gascott makes light of his strappings to defy Kabylicin's attempts to stop him scoring a memorable try for England at Twickenham

ankle, the result of falling awkwardly while supporting a somewhat self-indulgent run by Gascott.

An x-ray at the West Middlesex Hospital revealed no break and, given a good response to treatment, England's medical advisers are hopeful he will be fit in two to three weeks. But it rules Hodgkinson out of the next two warm-up games, at Gloucester and Cambridge, and leaves precious little time before the World Cup starts on October 3. Gascott, who should have parted with the ball far earlier than he did

having broken the Soviet defence, also left the field with some discomfort at the mercy of a knee but that was merely precautionary.

England's difficulty arose from treating this game as a training exercise. In any game, against any opponents, certain basic elements need to be present, in ball-winning and presentation, and England seemed to be looking to build the edifice before the foundations had been inserted. Thus there was an indeterminate quality to the forward play, though the backs looked sharp enough on occasions. An-

drawn's handling was deft as itself, as was Underwood's.

The wings changed round at the interval (when England led 22-0) so that Oti could experience the right-hand side of the field. "We have to develop our flexibility," Cooke said, though Oti's handling still left something to be desired. It had been hoped to switch the props round too but the Soviet front row proved awkward enough for that experiment to be stillborn.

Some of the Soviet close passing among the forwards was excellent and Bychkov lost possession over England's

line in the first half. But the backs lacked direction, and were exposed for speed on the wings — Oti opened the scoring and Underwood had scored twice by half-time. Gascott and Skinner each scored twice too, Skinner making the long break, which led to Oti's first try but scoring his own from a metre out — once from a Soviet throw over a short lineout on their own line, once from a tapped penalty. Pears, the replacement, showed encouraging confidence running out of defence, though by that stage the battle was long won.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Oti (2), Underwood (2), Gascott (2), Skinner (2). Conversions: Hodgkinson (2), Andrew (4). Penalties: Hodgkinson.

ENGLAND XV: S D Hodgkinson (No. 1), R Underwood (No. 2), S Skinner (No. 3), J Gascott (No. 4), J Oti (No. 5), J Underwood (No. 6), J Gascott (No. 7), J Oti (No. 8), J Underwood (No. 9), J Gascott (No. 10), J Oti (No. 11), J Underwood (No. 12), J Gascott (No. 13), J Oti (No. 14), J Underwood (No. 15), J Gascott (No. 16), J Oti (No. 17), J Underwood (No. 18), J Gascott (No. 19), J Oti (No. 20), J Underwood (No. 21), J Gascott (No. 22), J Oti (No. 23), J Underwood (No. 24), J Gascott (No. 25), J Oti (No. 26), J Underwood (No. 27), J Gascott (No. 28), J Oti (No. 29), J Underwood (No. 30), J Gascott (No. 31), J Oti (No. 32), J Underwood (No. 33), J Gascott (No. 34), J Oti (No. 35), J Underwood (No. 36), J Gascott (No. 37), J Oti (No. 38), J Underwood (No. 39), J Gascott (No. 40), J Oti (No. 41), J Underwood (No. 42), J Gascott (No. 43), J Oti (No. 44), J Underwood (No. 45), J Gascott (No. 46), J Oti (No. 47), J Underwood (No. 48), J Gascott (No. 49), J Oti (No. 50), J Underwood (No. 51), J 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Gower leads Hampshire on the field to Trophy success but Nicholas takes much credit

# Ayling shines in final's darkness

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**LORDS** (Hampshire won toss): Hampshire beat Surrey by four wickets

WE MAY never know it for sure, but in the fulfilment which ended a harrowing week for Hampshire, the ironical probability is that the man who held his nerve and won them their first NatWest Trophy would not have been playing at all but for a cruel injury to the club captain.

In light scarcely worthy of the term, and with three decades of impatience preying on him from every Hampshire follower at Lord's, Jon Ayling, the doctor's son from Portsmouth, hit a six and three fours amid the frenzy of this final's last three overs.

Surrey, who had rallied from an apparently hopeless position, albeit with assistance from three Hampshire run outs, were denied with just two balls remaining, Ian Greig, whose strength of character has reformed the Surrey dressing-room and promised them future prosperity, will thus step down from the captaincy with no tangible reward. Stoical to the end, he said later: "I had always said I would cope better with losing here than winning."

Instead, with lights on all around the ground, it was David Gower who held the trophy aloft on the pavilion balcony. But if the glory was briefly his, the credit for this Hampshire campaign must remain with the stricken Mark Nicholas, who stepped forward, shared the moment with Gower and then sank onto a bench, overtaken by emotion.

For almost 20 years, Nicholas, one of the game's romantic enthusiasts, has dreamed of playing in a September cup final. For the past two seasons, he has been convinced that Hampshire could take him there. They failed by the narrow margin in last year's semi-final but now, maintaining a rigid but effective game-plan, involving two spin bowlers and a run-chase, they were through to Lord's for the first time since the competition's inception in 1963.

It will go down as one of the game's harshest mishaps that Nicholas's hand was broken two days before the final, and by Waqar Younis, the bowler widely thought most likely to prevent them winning it. But

Nicholas retained the leadership, nous simply to name a team, telling nobody the identity of the man stepping into his boots.

It might have been Middleton, whose first Trophy match after eight years on the staff produced a composed 78. He, however, had always been marked down to replace Chris Smith. It might have been James, who neither scored a run nor took a wicket, but he has had a persuasively good season with the bat.

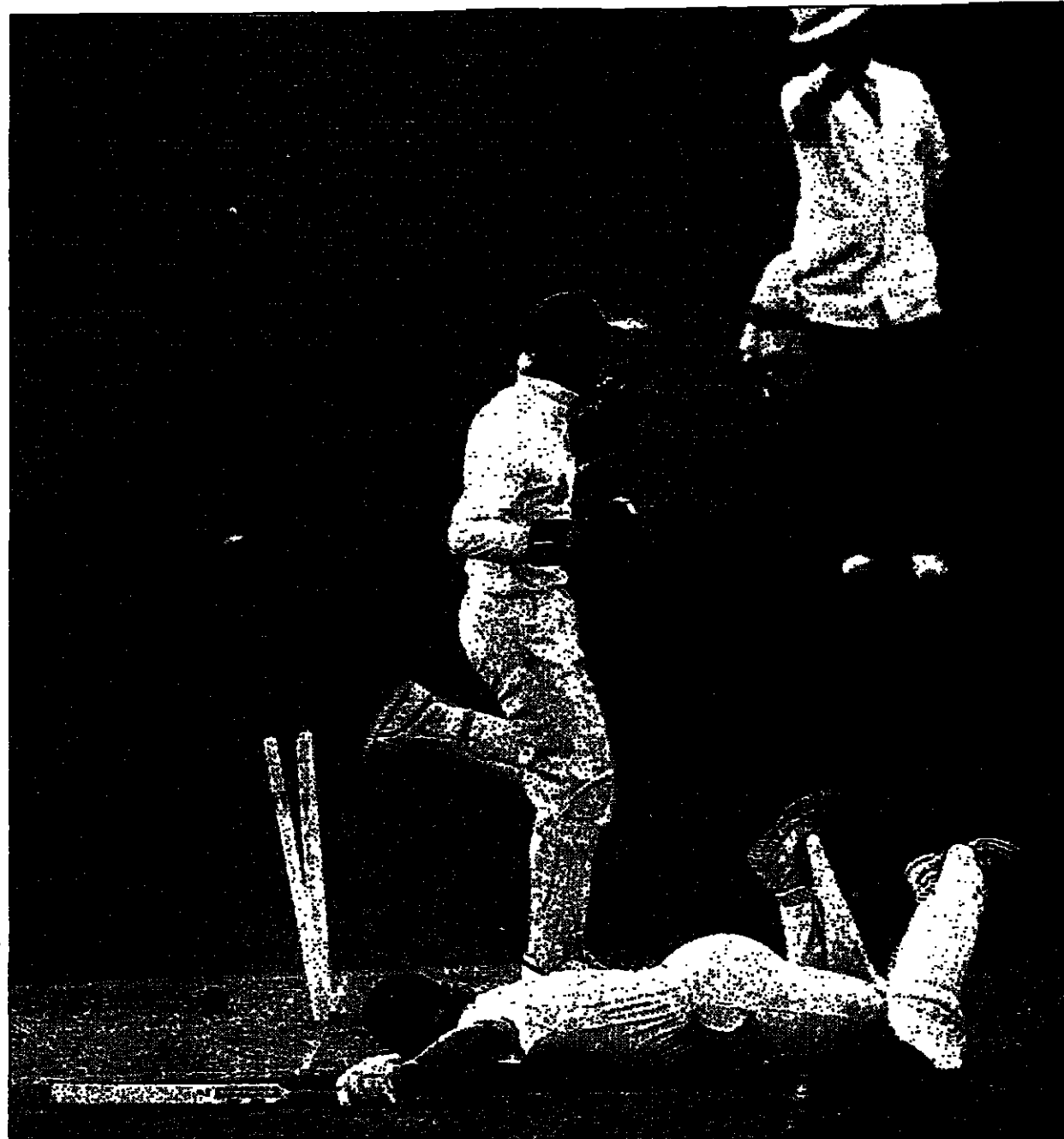
So the chances are that it was Ayling, whose all-round talent finally flourished both with bat and ball on this great stage, and whose temperament stood up to the severest test in a dusk, so grey that, even five minutes later, it would have invited a maiming to play on.

Ayling's nerve has not always been his strong point but facing Waqar Younis in the twilight concentrates the mind wonderfully and, squinting through the gloom, he saw him off with his own, somewhat mobile method, before taking the runs at the other end despite periodical chaos.

Twenty four were still wanted from three overs. Ayling square-cut Murphy for six, then drove a four through Greig's legs at mid-on. A single gave the strike to Robin Smith, 78 not out and the most massively authoritative player of the day. He pushed a ball past Murphy only for it to rebound off the non-striker's stumps into the bowler's hand. Murphy threw down Smith's wicket for one of the most curious run outs imaginable.

After six had come from a last over by Waqar, who was impressive enough for Smith to say admiringly "he's just something different", four were needed from the sixteenth over. Bicknell the wryly smiling bowler. A dot was followed by another run out, Aynes stumbling, but the canny Maru squatted a single first ball and Ayling, playing by instinct now, swung the next behind square for four.

Surrey's 240 had never seemed quite enough on a good pitch, despite Stewart's 61 and a mature and quick-footed 93 from Thorpe which should keep him in the selectors' thoughts. Ayling's day, however, had begun with the crucial wickets of Darren Bicknell and Stewart, both



Finger of fate: Ken Palmer, the umpire, passes judgment on Stewart's appeal for the run-out of Smith

bowled. Gower had begun with the vital winning of the toss and it ended with him reflecting: "This is the sort of day when, if you ever had doubts, you remember why you are still playing."

That it ended in such darkness was the fault of both teams, for they each took ten minutes more than the stipulated maximum to bowl their overs. They may be fined a pitiful £200 per club, but it was perilously close to the prospect, foreshadowed here on Saturday, of another one-day game going into two for

no acceptable reason. The sooner the fines are hauled up to a deterrent level, the better.

Television saw it through to the end but missed the end of the Surrey innings, fuelling those who decry the BBC's coverage. This, however, is a risk inherent within a multi-sport programme and the deal announced on Saturday, where the BBC will screen all international cricket, plus both knockout cups, for the next three years, will be welcomed by almost everyone who does not own a satellite dish.

**Hampshire won toss**

**SURREY**

D J Bicknell b Ayling 13  
Beecham off pitch playing forward  
J D Robinson not out

A J Stewart b Ayling 61  
Beecham between bat and pad  
G P Thorpe c James b Connor  
Pullard high to mid on  
D M Ward c Maru b Connor  
Carved drive to backward point  
M A Lyne c Ayling b Connor  
Pullard drive to deep mid on  
A A Greig not out

Extras (p 2, b 4, w 3, nb 1) 10  
Total (5 wickets, 235 mins) 240

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25 (Stewart not out), 2-139 (Thorpe), 3-203 (Ward), 4-222 (Lyne), 5-233 (Greig).

M P Bicknell, J Belling, Waqar Younis and A J Murphy did not bat.

BOWLING: Aynes 12-2-54-0 (p 2), 6-12-0, 3-0-17-0, 3-0-25-0; Connor 12-3-33-3 (p 2), 6-12-0, 3-1-6-0, 3-0-21-0, 3-0-21-0; Ayling 12-0-36-2 (p 2), 6-12-0, 3-0-22-3; James 9-3-33-0 (w 1), 7-3-14-0, 2-0-19-0; Maru 5-0-25-0; Udell 5-0-48-0 (w 2), 6-0-20-0, 4-0-28-0.

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: 10 overs: 22 runs; 20: 34; 30: 68; 40: 106; 50: 162.

REMARKS: Hampshire won by 4 wickets with 2 balls to spare.

Man of the Match: R A Smith.

Umpires: M C Cowdrey.

**HAMPSHIRE**

V P Terry run out (Thorpe) 32  
Direct hit from mid-wicket  
T C Middleton b Murphy 78  
Direct hit from mid-wicket  
R A Smith run out (Murphy)  
Direct hit by bowler  
D J Gower b Waqar Younis  
Beecham off pitch playing back  
K D James c Stewart b M P Bicknell  
Defensive shot edged to wicketkeeper  
J R Ayles not out

Extras (p 2, b 4, w 3, nb 1) 10  
Total (5 wickets, 235 mins) 240

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-90 (Terry), 2-160 (Middleton), 3-192 (Gower), 4-193 (D J Gower), 5-221 (Smith).

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 12-0-43-1 (p 1), 6-12-0, 3-0-17-0, 3-0-25-0; M P Bicknell 11-4-32-1 (p 1), 6-12-0, 3-0-17-0, 3-0-25-0; Ayling 12-0-36-2 (p 2), 6-12-0, 3-0-22-3; James 9-3-33-0 (w 1), 7-3-14-0, 2-0-19-0; Maru 5-0-25-0; Udell 5-0-48-0 (w 2), 6-0-20-0, 4-0-28-0.

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## Home-grown talent tips scales

THERE is much joy in Hampshire, not only because we have won the NatWest Trophy (formerly the Gillette Cup) after so many years of trying, but also that it was a victory fashioned out of adversity. Needing to close ranks, Hampshire did so. Better still, two of our own, one from Winchester and the other from Portsmouth, had a lot to do with it.

Hampshire have a disappointing record with regard to finding and promoting home-grown talent. Sussex, Kent and Surrey to one side of them, and Somerset (with the well-known Millfield nursery to the other) seldom field fewer than five or six players born or educated locally. It has not been unknown in recent years for Hampshire to field none.

But there are signs that this is changing. Of Saturday's side Ayling, Aynes and Middleton

are men of Hampshire, rather than being Hampshire by adoption. Aynes, in fact, was completing the other half of a splendid double, having played in 1984 for Hursley Park in the final of the National Village Championship. How that would have warmed the heart of Tom Sueter, "Keeper of the wicket" in the great days of the Hambledon club, and his inseparable friend, George Lear, "Sure as a sandbank", at long-stop.

Many of Hambledon's finest players were to come, it is true, from Surrey; but when cricket was first being "raised into an art" on Broad-Halfpenney Down, ten miles from Portsmouth, 20 from Southampton and about the same from Winchester, it was done mostly by Hampshire men: by John Small from

Petersfield, maker of bat and ball; by James Aylward, later to be "scooped" by Sir Horatio Mann to play for him in Kent "with great sums of money depending"; by David Harris, the greatest of all Hambledon bowlers and the first to combine length, direction and pace, and to make the ball lift from the pitch.

Although Harris was an underarm bowler - it was another 50 years or more before, in the 1830s, roundarm was legalised, the Reverend John Milford wrote of his action: "Like the Pantheon in Akenside's hymn, it was simply and severely great."

Dare I suggest that on Saturday night, Broad-Halfpenney Down "echoed to the cheers of a soundless, clapping host" and that today we may be allowed just a verse of the Reverend Reynold Cotton's famous Cricket Song: "Then fill up your glass - He's the best that drinks most! Here's the Hambledon Club who refuse the toast! Let us join in the praise of the Bat and the Wicket, And sing in full chorus the Patrons of Cricket."

Hampshire were fortunate to have David Gower to fall back on to lead them at Lord's on Saturday. His sang-froid was reassuring, and experience when running this very modern version of the Hambledon game counts for a lot more than tactical genius.

Basic as it is as a form of cricket, there is much for a captain to remember, and Gower had been through it all before, successfully for Leicestershire. It may not seem like it, because he scored only one, but his contribution to Hampshire's cause on Saturday was the most valuable he has made since joining them at the start of last season.

## Dean and Cartledge set up Staffordshire

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

**LUTON** (Staffordshire won toss): Staffordshire beat Oxfordshire by ten wickets

STEVEN Dean and David Cartledge, the most consistent opening pair of batsmen in the Minor Counties, swept Staffordshire to an historic double title success with an emphatic victory over Oxfordshire in the championship final yesterday.

Staffordshire became the first team to win the Holt Cup and championship in the same season since a change of format eight years ago and the contributions of Dean and Cartledge were entirely appropriate.

They shared a commanding unbroken partnership of 216 in 37.5 overs to emphasise the base

they have provided throughout the season for Staffordshire's seventh championship title and first for 64 years.

Dean, aged 30, scored 117, with 13 fours and two sixes off 133 balls, while Cartledge, aged 35, made 83 off 93 balls. They were challenged only by Arnold, who bowled a fiery opening spell, and by the accuracy of Evans, an off-spinner.

Cartledge was dropped at square leg off the first ball he received, and Curtis fumbled a steeping return catch after he had advanced to 44. Remarkably, the batsman ran three and Dean drove the next ball contemptuously over extra cover for a six to complete a half-century. He reached a hundred with another.

Archer, the Staffordshire captain, won the toss for the sixth time in ten championship games, and put in Oxfordshire, who had the worse of the batting conditions on a drying pitch.

Initially, the bounce was somewhat eccentric and Oxfordshire were indebted to Garner, their captain, whose innings of 75 from 121 balls ended with a top-edged hook. Garner and Waterson shared a second-wicket partnership of 91 in 28 overs, but survival and acceleration became incompatible and they were beaten with 17.1 overs still available.

**Minor counties championship final**

**Oxfordshire v Staffs**

LUTON (Staffordshire won toss): Staffordshire beat Oxfordshire by 10 wickets

S J Hartley b Head 42  
J S Hartley c Cartledge b Spence 32  
P J Garner c Head b Head 75  
A Lister c Head b Head 40  
P M Johnson c Dean b Head 14  
G P Saven c Cartledge b Head 13  
R A Evans c Head b Head 13  
D A Hale not out  
Extras (p 1, b 1, w 1, nb 1) 25  
Total (8 wickets, 55 mins) 216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-8, 3-138, 4-161, 5-176, 6-178, 7-185, 8-191.

R A Evans and J J Curtis did not bat.

BOWLING: Newman 11-1-32-2; Head 11-0-51-1; Bick 11-0-42-2; Spence 11-0-35-1; Dutton 9-0-41-2; Cartledge 8-0-10-4.

REMARKS: Staffordshire won by 10 wickets.

Man of the Match: S J Hartley.

Umpires: P Adams and K Bray.

**Seeboard Trophy**

**SUSSEX v KENT**

HOVE (Kent won toss): Sussex beat Kent by one wicket

T R Ward run out 2  
M A Eastham run out 12  
N Longley run out 40  
N Longley c and b Bunting 40  
G J Conway c Moore b Pigott 45  
M V Fleming c Pigott b Selousby 41  
J S Marshall b Pigott 1  
J S Marshall c Moore b Pigott 1  
M R Bennett b Selousby 1  
R P Davis c Selousby b Selousby 1  
M R Bennett c and b Selousby 1  
M R Bennett not out 0  
M R Bennett c and b Selousby 1  
Extras (p 2, b 4, w 3, nb 3) 17  
Total (34.2 overs) 177

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-40, 3-125, 4-161, 5-167, 6-222, 7-233, 8-238, 9-240.

BOWLING: Mallett 9-0-74-2; Hale 5-0-20-0; Curtis 9-0-75-0; Davis 2-0-10-0; Evans 10-5-28-0; Hartley 20-1-10.

REMARKS: Sussex won by one wicket.

Man of the Match: P Adams and K Bray.

Umpires: P Adams and K Bray.

**Other matches**

**Gloucestershire v Somerset**

HOVE (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire beat Somerset by 27 runs

R J Scott c Cook b Mallett 12  
M W Allsopp b Trump 31  
J J Wright c Mallett b Trump 57  
J J Wright c Mallett b Trump 57  
J J Wright c Mallett b Trump 57  
J J Wright c Mallett b Trump 57  
J J Wright c Mallett b Trump 57  
J J Wright c Mallett b Trump 57  
J J Wright c Mallett b Trump 57  
J J Wright c Mallett b Trump 57  
Extras (p 8, w 3, nb 3) 16  
Total (50 overs) 246

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-40, 3-125, 4-161, 5-167, 6-222, 7-233, 8-238, 9-240.

BOWLING: Mallett 9-0-74-2; Hale 5-0-20-0; Curtis 9-0-75-0; Davis 2-0-10-0; Evans 10-5-28-0; Hartley 20-1-10.

REMARKS: Gloucestershire won by 27 runs.

Man of the Match: P Adams and K Bray.

Umpires: P Adams and K Bray.

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Total (34.2 overs) 177

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-40, 3-125, 4-161, 5-167, 6-222, 7-233, 8-238, 9-240.

BOWLING: Mallett 9-0-74-2; Hale 5-0-20-0; Curtis 9-0-75-0; Davis 2-0-10-0; Evans 10-5-28-0; Hartley 20-1-10.

REMARKS: Gloucestershire won by 27 runs.

Man of the Match: P Adams and K Bray.

Umpires: P Adams and K Bray.

**Seeboard Trophy**

**SUSSEX v KENT**

HOVE (Kent won toss): Sussex beat Kent by one wicket

T R Ward run out 2  
M A Eastham run out 12  
N Longley run out 40  
N Longley c and b Bunting 40  
G J Conway c Moore b Pigott 45  
M V Fleming c Pigott b Selousby 41  
J S Marshall b Pigott 1  
J S Marshall c Moore b Pigott 1  
M R Bennett b Selousby 1  
R P Davis c Selousby b Selousby 1  
M R Bennett c and b Selousby 1  
M R Bennett not out 0  
M R Bennett c and b Selousby 1  
Extras (p 2, b 4, w 3, nb 3) 17  
Total (34.2 overs) 177

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Senna hounded by Williams drivers in Italy

## Mansell's victory a declaration of continued intent

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN MONZA

NIGEL Mansell and his Williams-Renault team declared their intention to maintain the pressure on Ayrton Senna in the race for the 1991 Formula One major racing honours by winning an exciting Italian grand prix here yesterday. By claiming his twentieth grand prix success 16 seconds ahead of Senna, the world champion, Mansell cut the Brazilian's lead in the drivers' championship to 18 points with four races remaining. After taking the lead from pole position, Senna was hounded in turn by Mansell and his Williams team mate, Riccardo Patrese, for 33 laps but once Mansell swept into the lead, the McLaren driver could only hope for second place at best ahead of Alain Prost's Ferrari.

By cutting only four points from Senna's championship lead, Mansell admitted that his rival was still the favourite for the title. "It was an absolutely fantastic race and one that we had to win. The car was very difficult to drive

on full tanks and it was sliding a lot when I was following Ayrton closely," he said. "We had planned to go to the end without changing tyres," said Mansell, who allowed Patrese past to conserve his tyres. "I decided to let Riccardo through so he could duck and dive and harry Senna. This is his home race and I knew he'd do anything to win, use up his tyres and cause Senna problems. It gave me time to rest the car, which is what I did for 15 laps, and then I went for Senna."

Patrese had tucked in behind Senna and Mansell after the start but moved into second and then ahead of Senna after 26 laps at Ascari chicanes, where Mansell was to assume the lead later. Patrese went off with gear problems shortly after overtaking Senna, a cruel blow for the Williams driver whose spectacular pursuit of the McLaren had demonstrated the superior power and nimble chassis of his Williams.

By the time Mansell was ready to overtake Senna on the 34th lap, the Brazilian was struggling with a car with wearing tyres. Mansell, in front of the Italian supporters who call him affectionately *Il Leone* (the lion) after his spell with Ferrari, moved steadily away to victory.

Senna pitted for tyres immediately. "It was the right thing to do," he said. "Had I not done so, especially after my left front wheel started to vibrate and locked under braking, I would not have finished second and the pressure would be on us, not on them."

Mansell's win is another tribute to his tenacity and his tactical acumen, not succumbing to the do-or-die spirit that has so often been his undoing. His maturity in allowing Patrese to soften up Senna has confirmed Frank Williams's belief that championships are won by experienced drivers.

While the race showed that the Williams is the better car on the track, it also proved that Senna can make up for deficiencies in his machine that would penalise most other drivers.

Prost's third place was small consolation for the *tifosi*, who were not at Monza in their usual droves. Fourth was the second McLaren, driven by Gerhard Berger, and fifth Michael Schumacher, the young German who will now hopefully be talked about more for his feats on the track than off. But the day belonged to Mansell and, as he bathed in the adulation, he must be hoping for more of these moments on the way to the last race of the season in Adelaide.



Winner's delight: Mansell celebrates his victory in Monza yesterday

**WORLD DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP** (after 12 rounds): 1. Senna, 77pts; 2. Mansell, 59; 3. Patrese, 34; 4. Berger, 31; 5. Prost, 25; 6. Piquet, 23; 7. Alesi, 10; equal 8. Modena and de Cesaris, 5; 10. Moreno, 5; 11. Lehto and B. Gachot (Fr), 4; 13. Merhi, 3; 14. Hakkinen, Naksola and Schumacher, 2; 17. Bailey, A. Suzuki (Japan), Piro, Bernardi, Capelli, Biondini, 1.

**WORLD CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP**: 1. McLaren-Honda, 108pts; 2. Williams-Renault, 93; 3. Ferrari, 35; 4. Benetton-Ford, 33; 5. Jordan-Ford, 13; 6. Tyrrell-Ford, 11; 7. Dallara-Judd, 8; equal 8. Minardi-Ferrari and Lotus-Judd, 10; 10. Larrousse-Ford, 2; equal 11. Leyton House-Bremer and Brabham-Yamaha, 1.

**LEADING FINAL PRACTICE TIMES**: 1. Senna, 1min 21.11sec (avg speed: 237.41km/h); 2. Mansell, 1:21.247; 3. Berger, 1:21.342; 4. Patrese, 1:21.372; 5. Prost, 1:21.825; 6. Alesi, 1:21.857; 7. Schumacher, 1:22.471; 8. Piquet, 1:22.728; 9. Moreno, 1:23.102; 10. P. Merhi, 1:23.234.

**REMAINING GRANDS PRIX**: September 22, Portugal (Estoril); September 29, Spain (Barcelona); October 20, Japan (Suzuka); November 3, Australia (Adelaide).

**FASTEST LAP**: Senna, 1min 28.01sec (242.819 km/h/150.758 mph, record).

## Old stagers go out without collecting a set

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

IT WAS fun while it lasted. The biggest cheers of the day were reserved for Martina Navratilova and Jimmy Connors, both of whom suffered comprehensive defeats at the younger hands of Monica Seles and Jim Courier at the United States Open. Neither managed to win a set.

Inevitably, a sense of anticlimax settled over the main court at Flushing Meadows and even the ageing champions themselves seemed to sense from the outset that youth must have its day. Apart from a brief opening flourish by Navratilova and by Connors at the start of the second, the traffic was all one way.

The pair, who have won 26 grand slam singles titles between them, were reduced to the role of pedestrians watching a flow of ferociously hit groundstrokes passing to right and left. "It was the closest to the lines she has ever hit against me," Navratilova said of Seles. "I was covering the net and she still got by me."

Navratilova, at 34 twice Seles's age, won just 10 points in the second set which lasted 21 minutes and followed the trend already set in the opening semi-final by Stefan Edberg. The No. 2 seed outplayed Ivan Lendl, the third member of the over-30s brigade on show, in straight sets.

The three matches took a total of five hours and 19 minutes, about half an hour longer than it took for Connors to reach the second round. Super Saturday, as CBS like to term it, turned quietly into Sentimental Saturday.

Edberg even indulged in a little showboating. Riled by Lendl's expertise in playing an impromptu shot behind his back, Edberg deliberately did the same a few games later, winning the point — as Lendl had — and drawing a disbelieving stare from his coach, Tony Pickard. The frivolity was partly a sign of the Swede's growing confidence as he reached his first US Open final, partly a reflection of his deeply competitive nature.

He was not going to be outdone by Lendl, even in the joke department. "Maybe because he did it, it got into my mind," Edberg said. And

the greatest showman of them all was still to come.

When he did arrive, given by a tumultuous reception by the crowd, Connors could find no such inspiration. Courier, the No. 4 seed and French Open champion, simply hit too hard, too often and too accurately for the 39-year-old, who even had to orchestrate the crowd to help lift his spirits. Every time he threatened a revival, Courier banged down another ace or rifled another huge forehand down the line to throttle the cheers.

Far from working off the crowd and off the umpire as he had in beating Aaron Krickstein, Connors found the one real moment of controversy worked against him too. In the fourth game of the second set, the umpire Dana Leoncio called the score "deuce" when it was actually a break for Connors to lead 3-1.

Courier pointed out the error forcefully to the tournament referee — "I wasn't angry, I just wanted to make a stand," he said — and then made his point even more forcefully on court, winning the next nine games. With one last gesture of defiance, Connors broke back to 2-5 in the third set and donated the game to the crowd. The relationship has not always been so good.

"Twenty years ago, I could fight anyone, the crowd, the umpire, my opponent. Everyone. I loved that, but I can't fight 20,000 people any more and I love it every time you're with me," Connors said.

Both Courier and Seles have some way to go before they can command such loyalty. In 66 minutes of shattering baseline hitting, Seles won \$400,000, regained her No. 1 ranking from Steffi Graf and confirmed beyond question that she is the best women's player in the world at the moment. Only Wimbledon remains to be won.

RESULTS (Grand Slam) in capital letters: Seles (Serb) (w) vs Lendl (Calif), 6-3, 6-3, 6-4; Courier (US) (w) vs Connors (Calif), 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; Edberg (Swe) (w) vs Lendl (Calif), 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; Seles (Serb) (w) vs Navratilova (Calif), 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; Seles (Serb) (w) vs Navratilova (Calif), 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

## Compromise seems likely

By PETER BALL

THE Football Association's acceptance of demands on promotion and relegation could finally buy the Football League's acquiescence in the breakaway Premier League this week.

"We're either tantalisingly close to agreement or a million miles apart, and I'm not sure

which," Rick Parry, the FA's facilitator and chairman of the first division clubs, said yesterday after a meeting at Leicester with representatives of the 71 non-first division League clubs.

They made it clear that three-up, three-down was non-negotiable, leaving the first

division clubs with little option but to fall into line if the League is to vote on regulation 11, requiring three years' notice of resignation, at tomorrow's extraordinary meeting.

The change indicates the extent to which the FA has compromised in order to get the Premier League through. The FA blueprint now looks a thing of rags and tatters, with its financial section discredited, and the two main planks of the football proposals — an 18-club Premier League with only one up and one down, and clubs required to possess a 20,000 all-seater stadium — all now shelved.

It could still be in the balance on Tuesday unless the FA makes further moves to give the excluded clubs financial guarantees. The FA has called an executive committee this morning to discuss the position, but it seems unlikely that it can give binding financial commitments.

"We have said all along that, as far as we are able, we will ensure that the clubs left out will not suffer financially," Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, said. "But we cannot give guarantees."

## Injured Thomas England's latest selection headache

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GEOFF Thomas, who has been selected for England's last seven internationals, could become the tenth casualty. He has a bruised calf, will continue to receive treatment when the squad assembles today and is considered doubtful for the game against Germany at Wembley on Wednesday night.

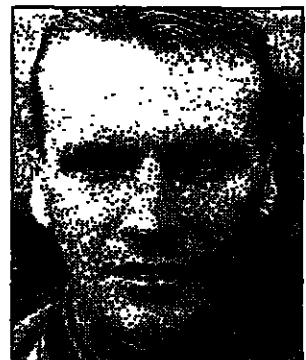
"We don't want any more injuries," Graham Taylor, the England manager, said yesterday. "We have had enough already." Apart from being without Barnes, Bould, Gascoigne, Hirst, Sharpe, Mark Wright and Walker, he is also unable to call on Martyn, McMahon, and Pearce, who are suspended.

Thomas has retained his place in midfield since making his debut in the 1-0 victory in Turkey in May. If he recovers, he will almost certainly accompany Platt. If not, his role is likely to be taken by Batty.

The condition of Curle, one of the possible partners for Parker at the back, is also causing concern. He damaged a cheek bone on Saturday and,

since he broke his jaw on the summer tour, an examination was thought necessary. He is expected to be available.

England may be depleted but the Germans have lost four members of their party. Helmer, a libero, Kuntz and Sammer in midfield, and the prolific Voller, who has scored 40 goals in 76 games, have withdrawn. Binz, Eintracht Frankfurt's sweeper, and Thon, of Bayer Leverkusen, have been summoned instead.



Thomas: injury doubt

England Under-21 have not escaped either. McManaman has been pulled out of the match against the Germans at Southampton tomorrow night and so have Rodney Wallace, who underwent a groin operation over the weekend, and Alan Wright. Kivomya, of Ipswich Town, is the only replacement to have been brought in.

Gary Gillespie, the Celtic defender, will miss Scotland's European Championship qualifying match in Switzerland on Wednesday. He has a groin injury.

Phil Gray, the Luton Town forward, has been called up for the first time to Northern Ireland's squad.

Gary Fleming, the Barnsley defender, joins him for the European championship match against the Faeroe Islands in Landskrona, Sweden. They replace Sheffield Wednesday pair Danny Wilson and Nigel Worthington, who were injured against Nottingham Forest yesterday.

Southern rumpus, page 30

## Bookies to face £50m payout

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

RACING is to demand £50 million from bookmakers in levy payments next year, the exact figure identified by the Commons home affairs select committee.

The sum, which is a 33 per cent increase on this year's return to racing from the betting industry, is due to be agreed today by the stewards of the Jockey Club and tomorrow by the Horseracing Advisory Council.

The leading bookmakers, Ladbroke, William Hill and Coral, will almost certainly oppose such a large increase in levy payments despite making annual profits of about £150 million. They will argue that the downturn in betting turnover this year prevents them from handing back more to the sport. The bookmakers are

expected to propose collecting a sum nearer to this year's total of £37 million. The levy is included in the 10 per cent deducted from off-course punters' winnings or added to their bets.

If the independent members of the Horseracing Levy Board back racing's case for £50 million, the home secretary will have to settle the dispute.

A minority within the sport is pressing for strike action to make bookmakers return a larger slice of money to racing. However, a report yesterday claiming industrial action was imminent after talks between leading owners and trainers is inaccurate.

Leading article, page 13

Race cards, page 31

## Familiar ring to debate over England squad

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

FAMILIAR names, rather than fresh ones, will dominate the debate by England's selectors prior to tomorrow's announcement of the winter tour party. When the talking stops, I expect confirmation of a first tour for Graeme Hick and a final one for Ian Botham and Allan Lamb.

Even before individuals are discussed, the selectors must settle on a strategy for a split tour featuring a three-Test series in New Zealand and the limited-overs World Cup. Despite the different demands, it makes sense in terms of spirit and cricket to keep the same players together, so it is unlikely that anyone will be chosen solely for the World Cup.

This stipulation will not have met with the immediate enthusiasm of Botham, whose preference was to fulfil television and theatrical engage-

ments while the unglamorous half of the tour took place. He has, however, responded positively to Graham Gooch's all-or-nothing policy and it will be no surprise if he is invested with the vice-captaincy, as much to sustain his own interest as for his ability to inspire others.

This job would normally belong to Atherton, who is ruled out of the tour following back surgery, and as neither of the other serious candidates, Stewart and Pringle, can be certain of their places in the side, Botham may be restored to a level of responsibility he has not held for club or country since 1985.

There will be those who fear that the selection of Botham and Lamb could lead to a resumption of the unhealthy clubby atmosphere which pervaded England touring teams of the eighties. Gooch, who witnessed their effect at first hand, will be alive to the risk

and as his stated priority for the winter is the World Cup, he is bound to rate the flair and experience of these two old hands above the pretensions of the young.

Lamb was left out this summer at the same time as Hick, since when two successive Tests have been won. If, because of this, neither man can be absolutely sure of touring, Lamb's proven record in one-day cricket and Hick's previous experience of New Zealand

will surely be decisive. Hick's disappointments this summer reflect technical flaws against high-class fast bowling, something he is unlikely to encounter on the slow, flat pitches of New Zealand. His all-round fielding skills and his off-spin bowling will also be invaluable during the World Cup.

The volatile but gifted Tufnell must be the main slow bowler and may, indeed, be the only one. There is no reason why he should not

bowl effectively in one-day games, obviating the need for the inclusion of the limited-overs bowler, who would not go on to the World Cup, there is much to be said for giving either Croft or Salisbury an apprenticeship, but this place may go either to the versatile Reeve or an extra seam bowler, such as Munton.

Those from this quartet who do not make the senior side should certainly be included in the 15-strong A team to visit West Indies, a tour on which Malcolm ought to be allowed to rebuild his confidence. There is scope for only one of the pure pace bowlers in New Zealand and recent form insists it is Lawrence, though even his enormous heart might be broken by the lifeless pitches.

If Fraser is presumed unavailable through injury, the rest of the bowlers can be inked in easily, leaving two

contentious batting places. Morris may struggle to retain preference over Darren Bicknell or Moxon as Gooch's opening partner, but Fairbrother's one-day reputation is likely to ensure his selection at the main expense of Hussain.

The senior 16 could be Gooch (captain), Botham (vice-captain), Darren Bicknell, Smith, Ramprakash, Hick, Lamb, Stewart, Reeve, Fairbrother, Russell, Pringle, DeFreitas, Lewis, Lawrence and Tufnell.

The A team might then include Moxon (captain), Morris (vice-captain), Fordham, Thorpe, Hussain, Ward, Speight, Metson, Croft, Salisbury, Cork, Munton, Pick, Watkin and Malcolm.

Ayling shines, page 32

Lord's scoreboard, page 32

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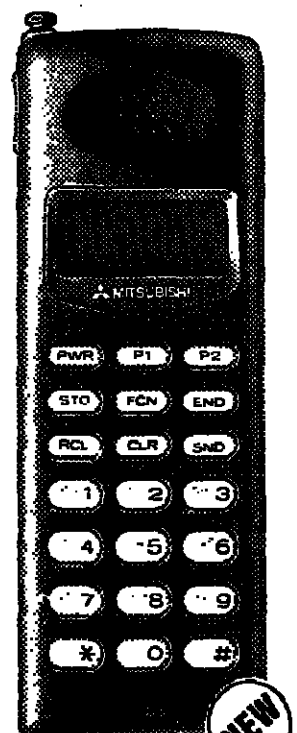
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